'Django' wins World Pool Masters in UK

STORY IN SPORTS, PAGE A16

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2001 ★★ 40 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 268 ₱15

US expresses concern over Burnhams' safety

A TOP US official yesterday met with President Macapagal-Arroyo to express Washington's concern over the Philippine military's failure to rescue two Americans held captive along with 16 Filipinos by Abu Sayyaf bandits.

But James Kelly, assistant US secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, told reporters after his meeting with Ms Macapagal that Washington understood the difficulties faced

US/ A6

No more 'Ma'am may I go out?'

BY B. RIVERA AND R. NAZARENO

SOON, students can no longer use "Ma'am may I go out?" as an excuse to skip their classes.

Education Secre-

NO/ A6

Mary Ong: You name it, they did it

Lacson to confront her on Wednesday

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

EX-NARCOTICS civilian agent Mary Ong, aka Rosebud, yesterday told a sordid tale of murder, torture, robbery, kidnapping, wiretapping and double-crossing, portraying these as routine events in a dark underworld of drug trading allegedly lorded over by police officers with no scruples.

In her six-hour testimony before investigating senators, Ong linked Sen. Panfilo Lacson to another police drug operation run by the same group of officers she had claimed to be trading illegal drug shipments originating from a Hong Kong triad.

She also implied that the ex-chief of the Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) knew of their alleged criminal activities, including the execution of two triad members.

But Ong admitted talking to Lacson only once—on Sept. 3, 1999 when Lacson was purportedly in Hong Kong, conferring with British agent Senior Detective Ron Abbott, whom Ong had worked for in the past as an informant against the triads.

According to her, during that talk, Abbott handed the phone to Lacson so he could talk to Ong, who was in the Philippines.

Ong said she told Lacson about alleged killings and illegal drug operations being conducted by his men, adding that she was being eased out of drug deals where she expected to collect some money.

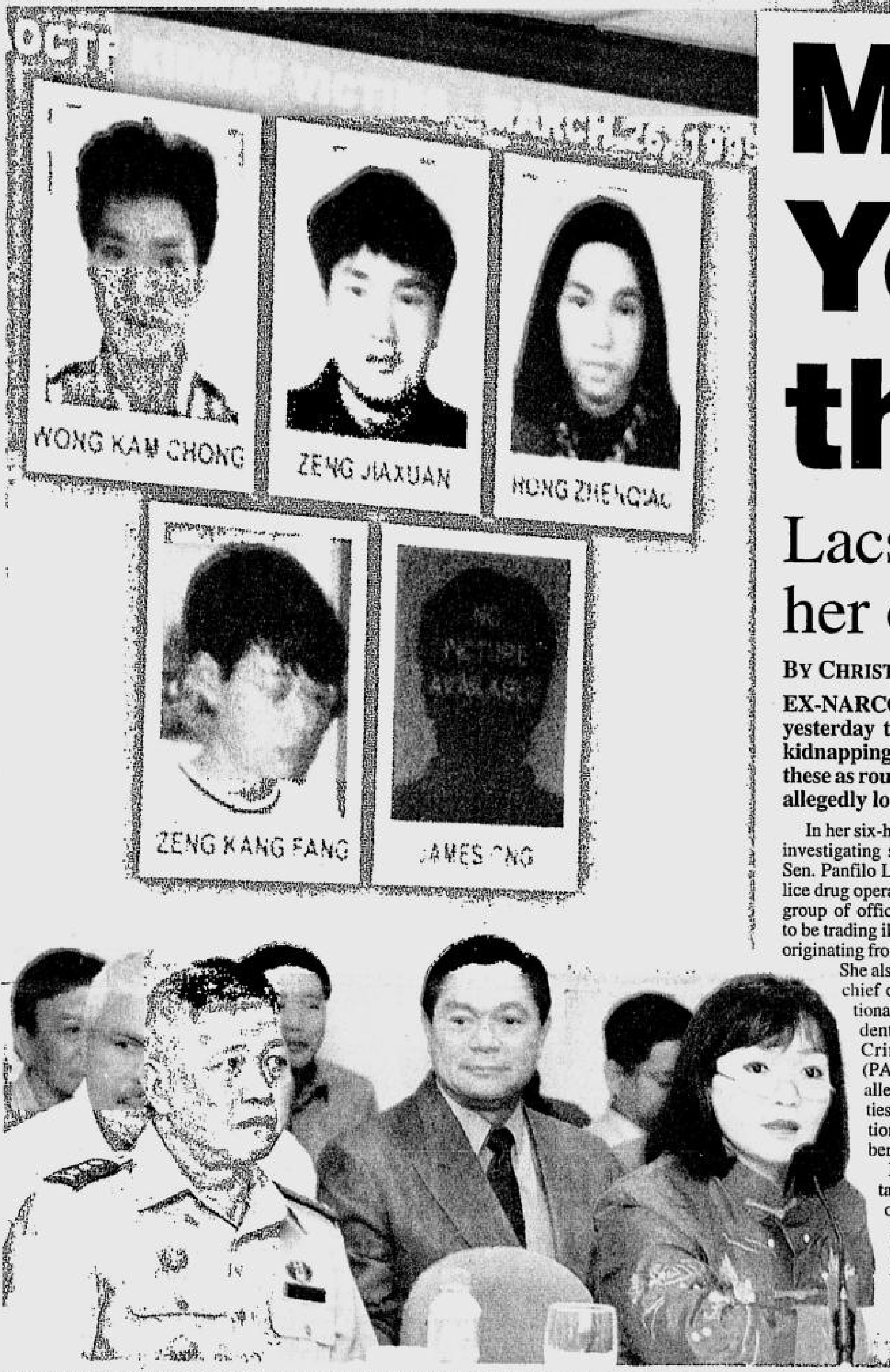
Lacson reportedly promised to look into the matter.

Ong said she also related to Lacson that the government owed her up to P3 million for her services in " Oplan Cyclops," a joint operation between the PAOCTF and the PNP Southern Luzon Command.

But in terms of the alleged orders from Lacson to buy drugs or order the killing of Chinese nationals, she said she only overheard Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, former head of the narcotics group of the PNP, or Supt. John Campos—her former handler and purported lover—talking to Lacson on the phone.

But for Lacson and a number of his senatorial colleagues, Ong has

MARY/ A15



PICTURES at an exhibition: With pictures of alleged kidnapping victims up on the wall, Mary Ong resumes her testimony on the alleged drug-trafficking activities of the PAOCTF. At left is AFP intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus; behind is NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Rosebud's list: Betrayal, torture, murder, etc . . .

IN HER riveting testimony at the Senate, witness Mary Ong alias Rosebud named a number of Chinese nationals. This was how Ong identified them:

- **Wong Kam Chong.** Believed by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop's men to be a member of a Hong Kong drug triad. Abducted, along with four others, by Acop's men on March 26, 1999, to find out from him the location of a triad warehouse in the country. Killed by Acop's men.
- **Chong Hiu Ming.** Sent by the triad to Manila on Dec. 28, 1999, to deal with Acop's group. Taken by Acop's men two days later to a townhouse owned by Ong, and questioned about a drug shipment. Killed along with Wong after his relatives paid P2.5 million in ransom to Acop's men.
- **Chan Ka Tseung.** Contact of Macau triad boss. Also abducted by Acop's men on July 25, 1999, and killed despite paying P5 million in ransom.
- **Zeng Jia Huan.** One of four kidnapped along with Wong on March 26, 1999, by Acop's men, and released. "Kidnapped" by the triad on Jan. 11, 2000. "Rescued" in Baguio City by agents of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force led by Col. Glenn Dumlao and tortured. Had to be hospitalized after suffering "drill holes" in several parts of the body.
- **Hong Zhen Qiao, Zeng Kang Fang and James Ong.** Zeng Jia Huan's wife, 16-year-old son and driver, respectively. Kidnapped with Wong and Zeng by Acop's men on March 26, 1999. Released together with Zeng.
- **Shang Hai Chua.** Claimed by the PAOCTF as kidnapper of Zeng et al.
- **Yu Yuk Lai.** Jailed "shabu queen." Godmother of Wong Kam Chong, and sent her lawyer to intercede with Acop's men for Wong's release.
- **Wu Lui Lao and Sin Ho.** Abducted, along with another Chinese national, by Acop's men, who believed they were drug lords. Tortured and killed.
- **Chong Yuk Sui.** Triad member from whom Ong and Supt. John Campos initially bought drugs for Oplan Athena. Introduced Chong Hiu Ming to Ong.

Don't count out 'Ador'–priest

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA AND ARMAND N. NOCUM

DON'T count Angelo "Ador" Mawanay out of the Senate investigation of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in high crimes.

His former protector, Fr. Carmelo Caluag, S.J., yesterday said that while the Senate hearings of the past two weeks had been focused on witness Mary Ong alias Rosebud, this did not mean that government investigators had lost interest in Mawanay's testimony.

True enough, Sen. Renato Cayetano told the INQUIRER yesterday morning: "We're not yet through with him."

DON'T/ A15

NOT ALL RIGHT, SIR

Biazon raps Ping for misuse of PMA code

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

SEN. RODOLFO Biazon yesterday reprimanded Panfilo Lacson, fellow minority senator and Philippine Military Academy (PMA) alumnus, for invoking what Biazon said was a PMA tradition in the halls of the Senate.

Biazon was referring to Lacson's challenge to Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes during a rarely held Senate Question Hour to prove that his testimony before last week's Senate hearing on the allegations of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) against Lacson was true.

The Isafp has accused Lacson, a former Philippine National Police Chief (PNP), of money laundering, summary execution, kidnapping and drug trafficking.

Lacson tried to solicit from Reyes, also a PMA alumnus, a response of "all right" to his query, something that PMAers would do when confronting a fellow cadet over something.

But Reyes merely said he was under oath in the Senate, and did not answer Lacson the way the latter had wanted.

"It is unfortunate that this was invoked in this hall because this is not applicable outside of the cadet corps," Biazon said.

BIAZON/ A15

ERAP TRIAL

Sandigan freezes 9 Yolanda accounts

BY DONNA S. CUETO

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday allowed former President Joseph Estrada, his son Jinggoy and lawyer Edward Serapio not to appear in the next pre-trial hearings on the plunder case against them unless they need to sign an order before the court.

Also yesterday, the anti-graft court froze six savings and three checking accounts under the name of Yolanda Ricaforte, reportedly the accountant of the former President for the alleged payoffs from illegal numbers game operators and a co-accused in the plunder case.

The nine accounts with Equitable PCI Bank totaling P11.135 million are reportedly part of the P4.1 billion in ill-gotten wealth hidden by the former President, his family and cronies in bank accounts.

The court rejected the prosecution's request to freeze the P211 million in deposits of the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation Inc. because the foundation was "neither an accused nor a party to the case."

The Ombudsman had earlier claimed that there was an attempt to withdraw the funds of the foundation.

The Sandiganbayan each asked the former President, former San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada and Serapio if they wanted to waive their appearance in the pre-trial and trial hearings on the case.

All three made an oral stipula-

SANDIGAN/ A7

NO STONE LEFT UNTURNED . . .

. . . when it comes to the pursuit operations of the Abu Sayyaf bandits. Across the river, the Marines encounter the enemy in Sumisip, Basilan. CHARLIE SACEDA/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Estradas file ₱20-M suit vs Corpus, PDI

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

"THE PDI story contained false, malicious and derogatory imputations," former President Joseph Estrada stated in the P20-million libel suit he filed yesterday against the Philippine Daily Inquirer and the chief of intelligence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Col. Victor Corpus.

The complaint involves the INQUIRER news report on the alleged secret deposits of Estrada and his former police chief, now Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"They had acted in utter malice, bad faith and with an evil motive under the premises as they did not even verify the veracity of the Corpus report," Estrada charged.

The INQUIRER based its Aug.5, 2001 banner story—"Ping has

ESTRADAS/ A7

Second FRONT PAGE

MAKIKISAPI NA!

Satur, pals join Joe de V

BY ROCKY NAZARENO AND VINCENT CABREZA
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE LEFT-LEANING party-list group Bayan Muna yesterday said it was aligning itself with the majority in the House of Representatives, agreeing to form a working relationship with the "Sunshine Coalition" of Speaker Jose de Venecia.

In a privilege speech titled "A Call for the Politics of Change," Bayan Muna Rep, Satur Ocampo said the group had decided to align itself with the majority "after months of deliberation and consultation with its chapters and members."

But he clarified that this did not mean that Bayan Muna was formally joining the "Sunshine Coalition" composed of parties that threw their support behind the leadership of De Venecia.

"We have entered into a mutual understanding that our group of three retains independence and initiative within the working relationship," Ocampo said.

Ocampo, labor leader Crispin Beltran and feminist Liza Maza occupy the three seats which Bayan Muna won in the May elections.

Ocampo said they sought the working relationship with the majority so they could "maximize efforts in advancing the interest of the marginalized sectors."

Meeting point

"However unlikely it may seem, Bayan Muna is looking at a possible meeting point with President Macapagal-Arroyo and De Venecia on the basis of advancing the immediate demands of the basic masses we represent," he added.

But he served notice that the "basic issues" of a wage hike demand and the speedy trial of ousted President Joseph Estrada were non-negotiable.

Ocampo also underscored that their legislative work only serves to supplement their participation in the democratic mass movement.

"As legislators, we continue to support the mass movement," he said.

No secret agenda

He denied having a "secret agenda" in entering mainstream politics, saying their objectives were clearly defined in documents submitted to the Commission on Elections.

"Our general program aims primarily to empower—in a real, not rhetorical, sense—the people," Ocampo said.

In an earlier interview in Baguio City at the weekend, Ocampo said he propose a congressional review of the President's privatization agenda which believes ignited the controversial ouster of Social Security System president Vitaliano Nañagas II in August.

Ocampo said he would ask for a moratorium on all of the country's commitments to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, to give Congress to review and obtain fresh insights into the supposed disadvantage for the country of global trade.

He admitted that the moratorium could effectively block Malacañang-backed legislation on banking reforms such as the anti-money laundering measure.

Ocampo said both Ms Macapagal and De Venecia have already softened their stance on globalization, and are unlikely to block the proposal.

Globalization

"The Speaker of the House recognized the need for a review by authorizing a special committee on globalization," Ocampo said.

He said under the government commitment to the World Trade Organization made in 1995, a series of laws passed during the Ramos administration effectively accelerated the implementation of trade and investment liberalization.

"Our proposal is to hold a congressional investigation in aid of legislation of all these laws and policies that impact on the economy, on the lives of people. And on the basis of this, Congress will legislate measures to correct projects that have a negative effect on our people," he said.

But until Congress can reach conclusions about the government's globalization agenda, Ocampo said Ms Macapagal must "stop, for the meantime, the implementation of her programs."

But the proposed moratorium will only cover "new" government projects, leaving untouched all of Ms Macapagal's "inherited impact projects" like the controversial $1.7-billion San Roque multipurpose dam and the sell-off of the National Power Corp.

By the new commitments, he meant Ms Macapagal's proposed legislation in banking, insurance and other financial operations.

Palace: Coup talk 'brainless'

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL AND CARLITO PABLO

MALACANANG yesterday branded as "ridiculous" and "grossly brainless" a report of an impending coup against the government.

"Reports of coup plots have become downright ridiculous and one (newspaper) article was grossly brainless," Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said, referring to a report in yesterday's Daily Tribune that said the Makati Business Club and the People's Consultative Assembly had banded together and were plotting to install a military junta.

According to the news report, a position paper was being circulated among select members of the two groups that contained a passage that was interpreted as a call to arms.

The position paper also purportedly called on the military to once again come to the protection of the Filipino people and the state.

It also called on the people to help the military wage a war against narco-politics.

The MBC and PCA are reportedly set to meet with Col. Victor Corpus, intelligence chief of the AFP, on Sept. 5.

Tiglao said, "The reason I said the story was brainless was because the documents it (relied on) referred to Edsa 2."

"Secondly, these civil society groups are very interested in fighting narco-politics and the call to arms was a call to help in the fight against narco-politics," he said.

More party-list groups booted out

THE COMMISSION on Elections has recommended to the Supreme Court the disqualification of 36 more party-list groups for failing to meet the guidelines set by the high tribunal, including the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa and three groups identified with former President Joseph Estrada.

In a partial report to the SC on its investigation on 50 party-list groups ranked 25th to 75th in the tally, the Comelec, said it found only 14 groups qualified to participate in the party-list elections.

These are Abanse! Pinay, Adhikain at Kilusan ng Ordinaryong Tao Para sa Lupa, Pabahay at Hanapbuhay (Ako), Alagad, Senior Citizens/Erderly Sectoral Party, All Trade Union Congress of the Philippines (ATUCP), Maritime Party, Ang Bagong Bayani-OFW Labor Party, Aniban ng mga Magsasaka, Mangingisda at Manggagawa sa Agrikultura-Katipunan (AMMMA), Alyansa ng Nagkakaisang Kabataan ng Sambayanan Para sa Kaunlaran (Anakbayan), Alyansa ng mga May Kapansanan sa Pilipinas (Akap), Mindanao Federation of Small Coconut Farmers' Organization (MSCFO), Womenpower (WPI), Aggrupation and Alliance of Farmers and Fisherfolk of the Philippines (AAAFPI), and All Workers Alliance Trade Unions (Awatu).

Among those 36 found disqualified, on the other hand, were Partido Demokratikong Pilipino Lakas ng Bayan (PDP-Laban), Partido ng Masang Pilipino, Liberal Party, Partido Demokratiko Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, Philippine Medical Association, Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption, Citizens Drug Watch Foundation, National Federation of Sugar Planters, and the Citizens Movement for Justice, Economy, Environment and Peace (Jeep), and RAM.

Ani: Evidence not enough to convict Ping

BY MICHAEL LIM UBAC

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday said documents supplied by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation provided "significant leads" on Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities.

But he said the evidence, submitted to him on Friday by the National Bureau of Investigation, was not enough to pin down Lacson.

He said the NBI and the Philippine National Police needed to come up with "hard evidence" to convince Ombudsman probers that a formal inquiry into the case was merited.

Desierto said the envelope submitted to him by NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco contained only an FBI report on the bank accounts of Lacson and his wife Alice in Van Nuys, California.

"There are no bank statements or certifications (that the accounts exist)," he said.

Desierto gave Wycoco 15 days more to produce the necessary documents.

Wycoco said the NBI and the justice department were still waiting for the US Attorney General to furnish them with other details of the accounts, like the amount contained there and the nature of the latest transactions.

Desierto said even the PNP had asked for a 30-day extension to come up with solid evidence on the case.

Desierto subpoenaed the FBI documents as part of his office's fact-finding investigation into the alleged money-laundering activities of Lacson.

Wycoco placed the documents inside a sealed envelope marked "for your eyes only" so as not to violate the confidentiality clause of the RP-US Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty.

He said he did not violate the confidentiality clause of the treaty because he did not reveal the details to the public.

Pressed to reveal the nature of the FBI documents, Wycoco said the letter-report confirmed that Alice had a bank account with the Bank of America branch in Van Nuys, California, which contained more than $50 million.

He said the Van Nuys account was one of three Lacson accounts mentioned by ex-civilian agent Angelo "Ador" Mawanay in his testimony before the Senate.

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Resistance	50/500/5k/50k/500k/5M/50M
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DCA	500μ/5m/50m/500m/5/10A
ACA	500μ/5m/50m/500m/5/10A
Resistance	50/500/5k/50k/500k/5M/50M
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15 Moro rebs slain in weekend clashes

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ AND CHARLIE C. SEÑASE
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—At least 15 Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels have been killed in skirmishes with government soldiers in Datu Piang, Maguindanao, since Saturday, the military said.

Two government troopers were also wounded in the fighting, said Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division.

Ando said the Army had to use two MG-520 attack helicopters to drive away some 100 MILF rebels who had allegedly occupied Barangay Nimao in Datu Piang.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, disputed the military's account and claimed that it was the military that launched air and ground assaults on Saturday and Sunday.

He said this was a violation of the ceasefire accord signed by the Moro rebel group and the government.

"It's a large-scale attack because the Army is using two OV-10 bomber planes and two MG-520 gunships," Kabalu said.

Citing civilian accounts, Kabalu accused the Army's 37th Infantry Battalion of committing abuses against villagers of Barangay Nimao and looting houses abandoned by fleeing civilians.

Ando explained that what happened was "three separate but inter-related incidents involving a big number of MILF (rebels)."

He said in a radio dxMS interview that it had all started with a *rido* (family feud) involving the Paquiladao clan affiliated with the MILF and another unidentified clan affiliated with the Moro National Liberation Front.

"Our troops were deployed in the middle of these warring clans," Ando told the INQUIRER.

The second incident was the ambush on Sunday morning of Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan's convoy in Barangay Iganagampong, Shariff Aguak.

The attackers were reported to have fled toward Barangay Nimao after harassing a 37th IB detachment.

"The ambushers joined other MILF (guerrillas) holding out in Barangay Nimao . . . that was why there was a big concentration of forces there," Ando said.

Ground skirmishes between government soldiers and MILF rebels were still going on at noon yesterday.

But Kabalu contradicted Ando's account of events.

"The Army had been pounding our troops since the last week of August, we have to fight back," he said, adding that the MILF had nothing to do with the Ampatuan ambush.

Kabalu called on the military to call off the offensives so "localized" peace negotiations could begin.

"Otherwise, if we allow this to continue, it may end up in a full-blown war," he said.

In his version of events, Kabalu said the whole thing started with a skirmish between warring families, involving MILF commanders Asraf Tayuan and Paquiladao in western Datu Piang.

Another feud erupted between a Commander Talyo and another heavily armed clan, he said.

"The Saturday-Sunday-Monday retaliation by MILF field commanders was not sanctioned by the MILF leadership," Kabalu said.

"They just retaliated because of the abuses of soldiers in Barangay Nimao and its continuing offensive," he said.

Kabalu identified the leader of the MILF group now engaged in sporadic firefight with soldiers as Commander Talyo, said to be the leader of a "lost command," or stragglers from the mainstream MILF.

Kabalu refused to confirm the Army's claim that 15 rebels were killed. Neither could he provide casualty figures on the government side.

Ando identified the leaders of 100 MILF fighters in Barangay Nimao as Commanders Amelili, Wahid and Franco, all belonging to the MILF's 201st brigade.

The MILF said it would file charges against the military for allegedly violating the ceasefire agreement.

"We have to submit our complaint to the government and MILF peace panels, which are set to resume negotiations this month," said Ghazali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, said.

It's Padolina, not Hidalgo, to CHEd post

PADOLINA

NOT an English expert but a science specialist.

Ma. Cristina Padolina, wife of former Science and Technology Secretary, William Padolina, was appointed to the Commission on Higher Education.

Padolina, not writer Ma. Cristina Hidalgo as earlier reported, assumed the post left by retired CHEd commissioner Mona Valisno on Aug. 22. (The INQUIRER apologizes for the mistake.)

Padolina, a graduate of chemical engineering from the University of the Philippines, was chancellor of the UP Open University from March 1995 until she accepted the CHEd appointment.

She was tapped by the CHEd to lead the commission's initiatives toward distance learning in the country, a technologically advanced program allowing students to take up courses without going to actual classrooms.

The 55-year-old Padolina would be part of an executive committee under the Information Technology Council, which reports directly to the Office of the President.

"We really have to make a good assessment of the distance learning in the country," Padolina told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

She said the council would still have to determine the country's capability for distance education, which relies heavily on computers and other electronic facilities.

Padolina, a topnotcher in the 1967 Chemical Engineering board exam, was also director of the Institute of Chemistry at the UP Los Baños in Laguna.

Padolina and Carlito Puno, former president of the Philippine Christian University, took their oath as CHEd commissioners last week. Puno replaced Roberto Padua.

Blanche S. Rivera

Butuan radioman missing

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A crusading radio commentator was reported missing and believed to have been kidnapped by an unidentified group, police said yesterday.

Police said Nolie Ebarle, known for his crusades against illegal drugs, violent rebel groups and police corruption, disappeared Saturday between Butuan and Cagayan de Oro cities, police said.

His employers received cell phone text messages claiming that an unknown group abducted the broadcaster.

Ebarle, 32, is a commentator and reporter for Radio Mindanao Network's dxBC station in Butuan City.

"The purpose of the abductors could either be to threaten Ebarle or silence him," said Senior Supt. Art Invanto, of the national police in the region. "Our operatives have been pursuing the matter."

Ebarle, who usually travels by bus, has been receiving death threats from several people or groups, Arnel Lozada, a co-worker, said.

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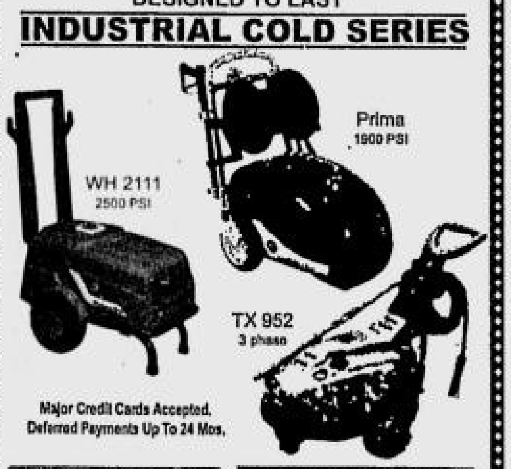
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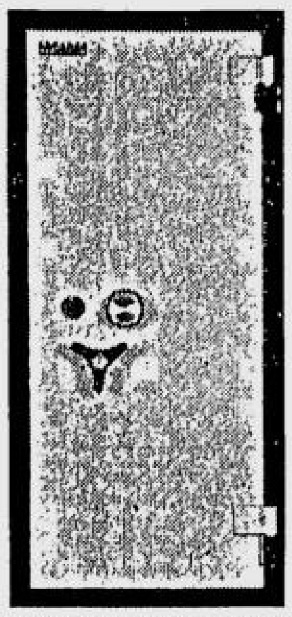
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Suspected Viet terrorists probed for Dec. 30 blasts

By Christine Herrera

POLICE Director General Leandro Mendoza said yesterday the three men believed to be behind the aborted bombing of the Vietnamese Embassy last week could have been involved in the Dec. 30, 2000 bombings that had rocked Metro Manila.

Mendoza said bomb-making paraphernalia seized from the suspects' apartment appeared to be similar to the materials used to make the Dec. 30 bombs.

Five powerful explosions had simultaneously ripped through crowded places in Metro Manila then, resulting in death and injury to at least 60 persons.

Chief Insp. Thompson Lantion, head of the PNP Directorate for Police Community Relations, identified the suspects as Vo Van Duc, 41, a Vietnamese-American; Huyn Thuan Ngoc, a Swiss citizen, and Makoto Ito, 62, a Japanese national. Vo and Huyn are reportedly members of the Government of Free Vietnam (GFVN).

Lantion confirmed the three suspects were in the country during the Dec. 30 bombings although an Agence France Presse report said Vo arrived in the Philippines on Feb. 21, 2001.

The three also allegedly wrote to then Sen. Panfilo Lacson, former PNP chief, to offer their services in a destabilization campaign against the government.

The PNP, Lantion said, was checking if the group did make the offer to Lacson.

"The evidence seized from the suspects was similar to the bomb paraphernalia recovered from the five explosion scenes," Lantion said.

"The explosives they made to use against the Vietnamese Embassy were similar to those used in the Dec. 30 bombings—thermos jugs triggered to explode when activated by cellular phone," he said.

Lantion said police suspicions that the terrorists were behind the Dec. 30 bombings were bolstered by the arrival of GFVN leader Nguyen Huu Chanh in the country several months ago.

The GFVN, in a letter to Mendoza, acknowledged the three suspects belonged to the group but insisted they were not terrorists.

Chanh, in the letter, said his men belong to a group of nationalists who are trying to free their country from communism.

He also denied the GFVN had anything to do with the bombing of the Vietnamese Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, on June 19, 2001 and the attempted burning of their country's embassy in London in September 2000.

A Filipina is being investigated in the aborted bombing of the Vietnamese Embassy here, Mendoza said.

He identified her as Florinda Estrada-Valderama, a former operative of the Military Intelligence and Service Group under then Colonel Lacson and the late Col. Rolando Abadilla.

Mendoza said Valderama had signed the lease contract in behalf of the three suspects for the Sylvana town home in San Juan they were occupying when they were arrested three days ago.

Valderama was also the one who allegedly rented a truck on Aug. 2 that was used to transport the bomb paraphernalia from the apartment previously rented by the suspects in Bel-Air, Makati City.

MENDOZA

SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW:

HIGH CEMENT PRICES and WHY THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RISE

Q. Why do we have high cement prices?

A. At the height of the Asian financial crisis, the biggest three global cement players (LaFarge-Blue Circle, Holderbank and Cemex, now known as the Big 3) acquired 92% of Philippine cement capacity. Immediately after the Big 3 consolidated ownership of cement plants, cement prices skyrocketed by 115% in 1999 alone (From P45 per bag in 1998 to P97 per bag in 1999) despite low demand. Now the current price is P145 to P150 per bag. There are very strong proofs that the Big 3 are operating a cartel and have eliminated competition in the market. Without sufficient competition, the Big 3 are free to increase prices whimsically. Their strategy is to increase prices gradually to avoid detection by the government.

Q. What are the proofs indicating that the Big 3 are operating a cartel and has eliminated competition in the Philippine market?

A. The Big 3 has done the following:

1). The cement firms have incresed their prices by almost the same amount together in what seems to be a harmonius fashion in the presence of excess supply and weak demand due to slowdown in the construction activity in the country defying all economic laws. Traditionally, we see cement prices going down during rainy season because of reduced construction activity. Now, prices continue to go up even during rainy season.

2). They have set up geographical division of the markets wherein the Luzon plants were to sell only in the Luzon area and the Visayas/Mindanao plants to confine sales only in the area.

3). They have curtailed production by shutting down kilns and plants with a total capacity of 7.9 million tons even prior to the alleged import surge that occurred in the year 2000.

4). They have stopped and prevented many cement plants abroad (which they likewise owned or exerted influence over) from exporting cement to the Philippines.

5). They have retaliated against exporting countries e.g. Taiwan by exporting to that country an equivalent or even greater volume of cement at punishing low prices (P30 to P40 per bag) to warn them not to export to the Philippines. Taiwan has totally stopped its exports of cement to the Philippines as of August 2001 and in consideration the Big 3 has stopped their exports of cement to Taiwan.

6). They have filed charges of dumping against Taiwan cement (which was later withdrawn) and now claiming to have suffered serious injury as a result of import surge is asking the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to impose Safeguard Measures against all cement imports. They have held government hostage by threatening to close plants, default on bank loans, retrench workers, etc. If the safeguard measures are not granted. By preventing cement imports (which is the only factor providing competition) through Safeguard Measures, the Filipino consumers will be totally at their mercy.

Q. What is the real cause of the Import Surge?

A. Import Surge is a result of the domestic cement plants excessive pricing of cement higher than the prevailing regional prices. Cement in Singapore, Hongkong, Indonesia and Taiwan are priced at P50 to P80 per bag, while the current price in the Philippines ranges from P145 to P150 per bag. The abnormally high price in the Philippine market acts as a magnet for imports. When cement imports came in, the Big 3 chose not to compete to avert a decline of cement prices in the Philippines. Instead, it exported to those countries at very low prices of P30 - P40 per bag.

Cement is heavy, bulky and expensive to transport. Just to import Indonesian cement to the Philippines will cost an importer P46.00 per bag (excluding FOB value) for ocean freight, port costs and duties alone. This is the natural protection barrier that cement plants in the Philippines enjoy. The fact that importers were able to overcome this natural protection barrier and still profit shows how excessive domestic cement prices are.

Q. Is the imposition of Safeguard Measures the solution against Import Surge?

A. The government's failure to protect the consumers against cartel operations is bad enough. Protecting the cartel through safeguard measures is worst, as it will further embolden it to increase cement prices and continue its anti-competitive conduct. It will lessen the pro-competitive effects of imports. The imposition of safeguard measures (tariff or quota) will increase cement prices that will be shouldered by consumers. Besides, imposition of safeguard measures under this circumstance is not allowed under Section 36 of RA 8800.

Safeguard measure is allowed only in circumstances when an industry needs time to adjust to global competition. The Philippine cement industry is globally competitive as borne by the fact that it has consistently exported cement to major markets like the United States, Africa, Hongkong, Taiwan, Singapore, etc. at a profit.

The remedy against import surge is for the cement factories to lower their price to the Filipino people at P100 to P120 per bag. At this price, no cement imports will come in and the government and public interests will be protected. At the same time, cement factories will still earn profit of 40% to 50% since their cost of production ranges from P60 to P80 per bag or even lower as most raw materials e.g. limestone are our natural resources.

Q. Is it true that the Import Surge of cement that occurred during the year 2000 and first half of 2001 caused serious injury to the Big 3? What is the impact on employment?

A. No. The records will bear that they have in fact improved their profitability during the period of import surge because:

1). Although they have sold less volume of cement in the Philippine market, they were able to sell cement at higher prices per bag.

2). Instead of competing in the Philippine market against the import surge, the Big 3 decided to export 2.6 million tons of Philippine made cement during the period January 2000 to June 2001. The cement imports during the same period is almost the same at 2.8 million tons. Capacity utilization remains the same as volume displaced by imports were substituted by exports and therefore employment utilization does not decrease.

Republic's income from operations amount to P420 million in 2000, and it was able to settle all its loans to the banks that year. Cemex's Apo posted a net income after income tax of P2.9 billion in 2000. Cement plants have resorted to shortening depreciation period of plants to claim accelerated depreciation, based their depreciation on revaluation increments, change accounting methods to reflect book losses in order to convince government that it is losing money.

Q. Is it true that cement imports failed the expectations of government and the people to control continued price increase or price abuses by the local cement industry?

A. Not true. During the first quarter of year 2000, cement prices started to increase for no economic reason at all. DTI encouraged cement imports and prices relatively stabilized during the rest of 2000. However, the period December 2000 to July 2001 saw the peso devaluing by another 30% (1:41 to 1:53) and the landed cost of imported cement increased to P110 per bag. The local cement plants knowing that landed cost of imports will increase took advantage of the situation and escalated their prices successively by 30% as peso devalued.

The prices of cement in Mexico and Venezuela (a market dominated by Cemex) is P230 to P250 per bag. The Philippines is clearly heading towards this direction unless the Government acts on the anti-competitive conduct of the cement industry. In the meantime, cement imports provide the only means of competition in the absence of government's passage and enforcement of a comprehensive anti-trust law. Allowing imports as free as possible is the only means to provide competitive discipline in an industry characterized by limited competition and a tendency to engage in collusive behavior.

Q. What is the impact of high cement price on the economy?

A. Cement is a vital input in private and government infrastructures. It will derail flagship government projects such as low-cost housing and would mean less kilometers of roads, less school buildings , less farm to market roads and less of the much needed infrastructures. It will dampen recovery of the construction sector, which employs no less than 1.7 million workers and pull down competitiveness of industry linkages and investments in general.

We appeal to the President and the DTI Secretary, who is the Chairman of the Price Coordinating Council to enforce the law on cartels. RA 7581 defines cartel as -

Cartel, which is any combination of or agreement between two (2) or more persons engaged in the production, manufacture, processing, storage, supply, distribution, marketing, sale or disposition of any basic necessity or prime commodity designed to artificially and unreasonably increase or manipulate its price. There shall be ***prima facie*** *evidence of engaging in a cartel whenever two (2) or more persons or business enterprises competing for the same market and dealing in the same basic necessity or prime commodity, perform, uniform or complementary acts among themselves which tend to bring about artificial and unreasonable increase in the price of any basic necessity or prime commodity or when they simultaneously and unreasonably increase prices on their competing products thereby lessening competition among themselves.*

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Recto's 12th spot in peril

THE OPPOSITION Puwersa ng Masa said yesterday Sen. Ralph Recto's 12th place ranking in the recent Senate elections had become "precarious" after Commission on Elections chair Alfredo Benipayo ordered the deduction of 30,000 allegedly padded votes from Recto's final tally.

Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for PnM Sen. Loi Ejercito, said Recto could very easily be dislodged by 13th placer Sen. Gregorio Honasan as the deduction of 30,000 votes could reduce his lead to only 14,413.

Even though Benipayo has stressed that the deduction would not alter the current ranking of Recto and Honasan, Rodriguez said that could still change as the final Senate tally has been contested by Honasan before the Supreme Court.

Honasan also has a pending election protest against Recto with the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

"The fight for 12th place is not over yet, as Recto and the Comelec itself wants the public to believe," Rodriguez said.

"A lead of 15,000 votes is by no means a safe margin," said Rodriguez who has filed petitions contesting a total of 144,000 votes for Recto in three Mindanao provinces.

"Even if they just reopen the certificates of canvass in one or two towns mentioned in my petitions, Recto's lead will be buried by the avalanche of more deductions," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez's five petitions questioned 90,000 Recto votes in 10 towns in Maguindanao, 40,000 in seven towns and one city in Lanao del Sur, and 14,000 in a town in Lanao del Norte.

The 12th and 13th rankings are crucial because the 12th placer would serve a full six-year term, while the 13th placer would serve for only three years to complete the unfinished Senate term of Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

The SC on Wednesday gave the Comelec 10 days to comment on Honasan's petition questioning the final senatorial tally. *Gerald G. Lacuarta*

Gloria asked to choose jail chief well

A GROUP of rank and file personnel of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to order the exclusion of its officer-in-charge in the selection process for the top post of the jail bureau because of his "bogus" educational qualifications.

The BJMP uniformed officers and personnel, led by Supt. Renato Gacutan, learned that the Presidential Management Staff is currently evaluating contenders for the post of jail bureau chief, which include Chief Supt. Arturo Alit, the acting chief.

They asked the President to appoint as BJMP chief the most qualified officer with unquestionable academic records and without pending criminal and administrative cases. Alit, they said in a press statement, has pending cases with the Ombudsman and the Civil Service Commission. They pointed out that under civil service rules and regulations no government official or employee with pending criminal and administrative cases maybe considered for promotion.

Gloria to visit Japan Sept. 12

TOKYO—President Macapagal-Arroyo will make her first visit to Japan since taking office in January, the Japanese foreign ministry said yesterday.

During her trip starting Sept. 12, Ms Macapagal will hold her first talks with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, the ministry said.

She will meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko as well as give a speech at a world business conference on electronic business transactions, the ministry said. *AFP*

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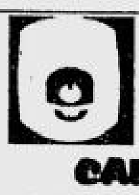

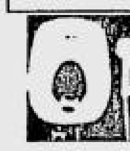

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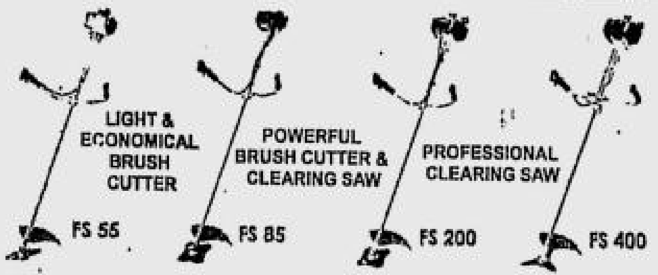

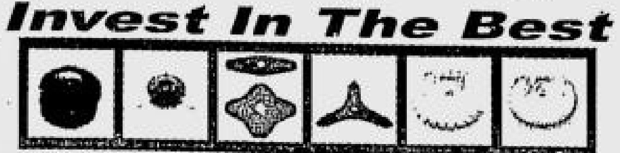

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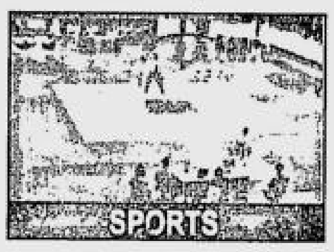
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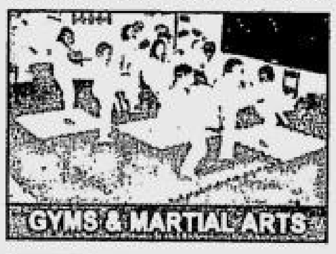
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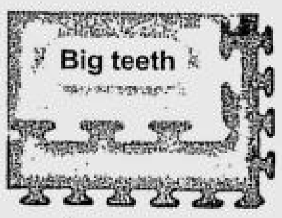

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No more 'Ma'am may I go out?'

(From page A1)

tary Raul Roco has promised to include one toilet for each of the 3,000 new classrooms that would be constructed this year.

The classrooms with toilets would be a boon for public school students and their teachers who had been suffering from lack of such amenities in their schools.

Department of Education (DepEd) records showed that as of last year, 3,509 of the 360,000 public schools nationwide had no toilet. Some only had one restroom for a population of around 5,000 students.

Public school teachers have been known to suffer from urinary tract infection due to their busy schedule and the non-availability of restrooms, especially in the provinces.

"We will build one toilet for every classroom that will be constructed. But we cannot construct toilets for the classrooms that are already in place. This is just for the new structures," Roco said.

Roco said the DepEd would use a large part of its current P2-billion budget for the school building program to construct the new classrooms.

In July, the DepEd took over from the Department of Public Works and Highways the construction of classrooms. It designated principals to supervise the constructions.

Congress, meanwhile, is set to invest heavily in education next year.

Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., House appropriations committee chair, said Congress would likely approve the DepEd budget request of P96.9 billion.

"From Pentiums to principals, we will see to it that there will be money for educational tools and personnel," Andaya said.

The budget will be used for, among others, the hiring of 20,000 new teachers, the building of 5,479 new classrooms, the purchase of computers (P110 million) and even the sponsorship of an educational television program.

Andaya, however, conceded that the DepEd-proposed budget, which is P13.9 billion higher than this year's, would not completely solve the backlog in classrooms, desks and computers.

"It is nevertheless a good starting point and is the best we can manage given the fiscal problems of the government," Andaya said.

"It is a respectable investment in human capital."

Most of the budget will go to the hiring of new teachers (P2.24 billion) and equalizing the pay of school principals (P191.3 million). A total of P3.5 billion will be allotted to fund the 5-percent salary increase of teachers that took effect in July 2001.

Some P2 billion will be used to build 5,479 classrooms and P428 million will be set aside to repair old ones. The DepEd is also requesting P30 million to cover expenses in titling school lots.

But Andaya admitted that the investment on new school buildings would meet only one-third of the projected shortage in classrooms next year.

A total of P716 million will be allotted for the purchase of textbooks to achieve a 1:1 pupil-to-textbook ratio on core subjects. Some P500 million will be used to buy new chairs and desks.

Constel, an educational television program targeting high school students, will get P10 million while the Philippine High School for the Arts will get P32 million.

US expresses concern over Burnhams' safety

(From page A1)

by Manila.

Kelly said he discussed the hostage crisis briefly with Ms Macapagal and relayed his government's support for Manila's campaign to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

Since late May, the bandits have been holding US Christian missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and 16 Filipinos in Basilan.

"I just expressed US interest in supporting the government of the Philippines in the difficult problems mentioned," Kelly told a news conference.

Asked if the US government thought Manila had been successful against the bandits, Kelly said: "The only measure of success on something like this is when the hostages are released and that has not happened in adequate measures, certainly not with the Americans involved."

The Abu Sayyaf seized the Burnhams, originally from Wichita, Kansas, along with Californian Guillermo Sobero and 18 Filipinos from the Dos Palmas beach resort in Palawan on May 27.

The bandits have freed most of the Filipino captives—allegedly after ransom payments—but they have taken additional local hostages.

They have executed at least 14 Filipinos and claimed also to have beheaded Sobero, although his body has not been found.

The military has deployed about 5,000 troops to Basilan to recover the hostages, but the bandits have used the island's jungle cover and help from a sympathetic Muslim population to elude the manhunt.

Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan, Armed Forces spokesperson, said military intelligence indicated the Burnhams were still alive but under extreme "physical hardship" in Basilan's jungles.

"They are exposed to different elements like rain, heat of the sun and are hiding in the caves," Adan said.

Nat'l threat

Gen. Diomedio Villanueva, Armed Forces chief of staff, said the Abu Sayyaf was now considered a "national threat" as he asked the Senate to approve additional funds for the ill-equipped military.

"We have to categorize them (Abu Sayaf bandits) now as a national threat because their network is growing, more people are being affected and the situation in Mindanao is worsening," Villanueva said.

To eliminate the bandits, Villanueva said more troops would have to be sent to Basilan with modern military equipment to match the Abu Sayyaf firepower.

Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes urged the Senate to approve an additional P15 billion in the defense budget for next year to pay for soldiers' salaries and intelligence work.

The bandits gained international notoriety last year when they abducted more than a dozen Western hostages in two cross-border raids on Malaysian resorts, later ransoming the captives off for millions of dollars.

Officials said the Abu Sayyaf used the ransom payments to acquire modern firearms and speedboats.

Ramos

Accusations that the military colluded with Abu Sayyaf kidnappers, however, could hamper efforts to rescue 18 hostages, including the American couple, former President Fidel V. Ramos said Monday.

The Senate and House of Representatives are conducting separate inquiries into allegations that five senior military officials took a cut from the ransom paid by some hostages. In exchange, the officials allegedly allowed the bandits to slip through a military cordon with their hostages in Lamitan, Basilan, on June 2.

"We must remember that this could cause demoralization in the Armed Forces and the police, who are still working very hard to effect the rescue of some of the hostages still in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf," Ramos told the dzBB radio.

The charges were first aired by Fr. Cirilo Nacorda, a Basilan parish priest who has launched a personal crusade against the bandits after walking free from captivity in 1994.

"Is he (Nacorda) out to destroy the morale of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police?" said Ramos who had served as national police chief, AFP chief of staff and defense secretary before becoming President in 1992.

Nacorda reportedly wrote to Ramos shortly after his release in 1994 that certain military officials he identified by name were colluding with the kidnap gang.

Ramos confirmed that he had received the letter and had given copies to the defense and interior secretaries at the time.

"We received reports like these almost every day and these were properly investigated as long as they were not blanket accusations," Ramos said.

"But for him to say that I did nothing to stop the Abu Sayyaf, that is a complete lie."

Other kidnappings

The Macapagal administration has also been saddled with the kidnapping of Chinese nationals in Mindanao and Metro Manila.

PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza yesterday ordered the PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group to investigate the reported kidnapping of four Chinese traders in Valenzuela City on Saturday.

But Insp. Salvador de la Cruz of the Valenzuela police said no group had yet demanded ransom or claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

"We are blind at this point," De la Cruz told the INQUIRER. "We don't know the identities of the suspects and even the victims."

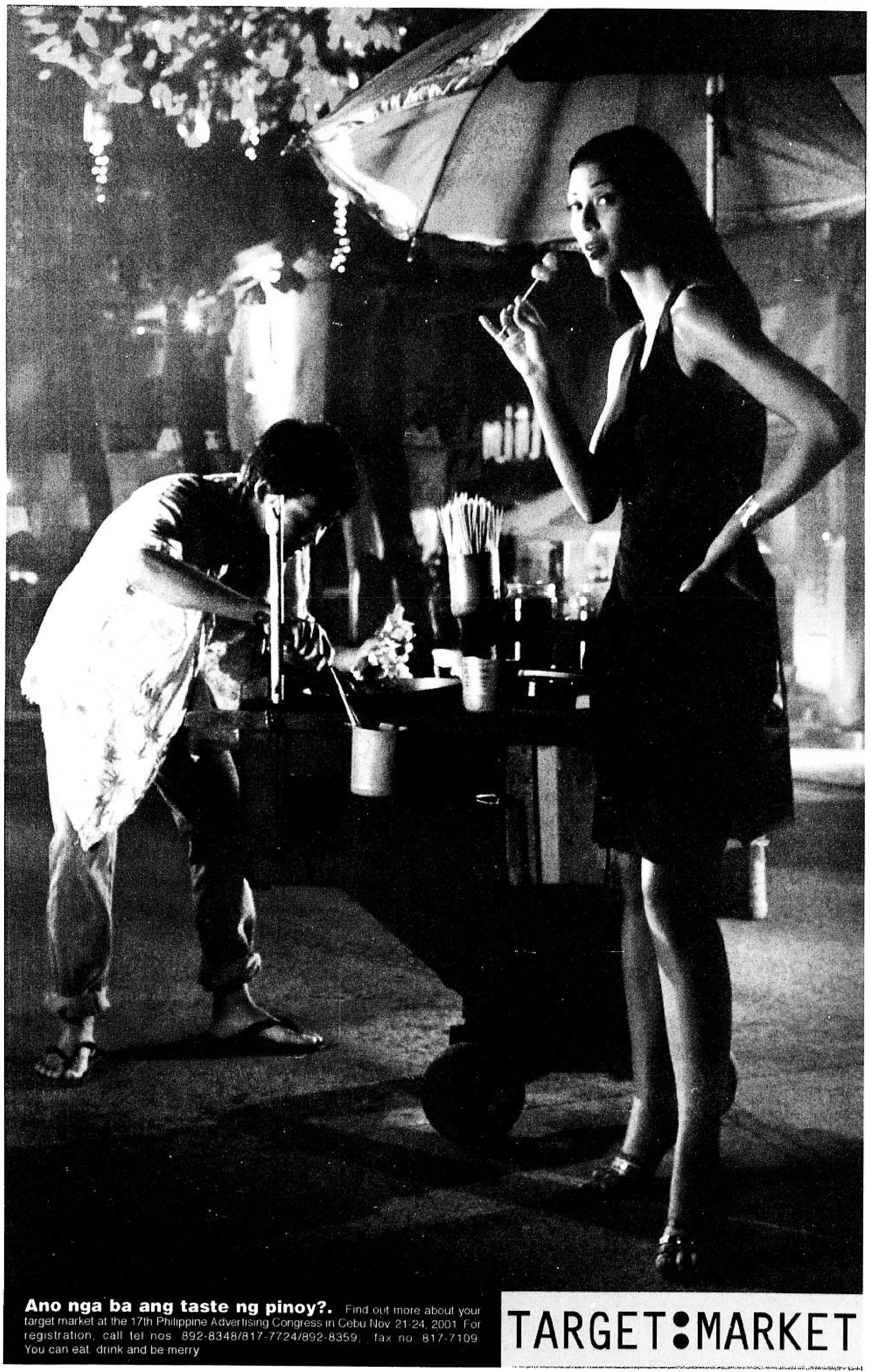
He said the Western Police District Special Operations Group on Saturday reported to the National Capital Region Police Office that six armed men kidnapped four Chinese traders—two men and two women—in Barangay Ugong around 5:30 p.m. on the same day.

The kidnappers reportedly armed with M-16 rifles and on board a Honda Civic with Plate No. UKM-436 blocked the victims' Toyota Revo' van, with Plate No. WFT-196 near the boundary of Valenzuela City and Quezon City.

According to De la Cruz, the NCRPO sent a copy of the report to the Valenzuela police station which immediately sent investigators to Barangay Ugong.

The investigators led by Supt. Nemesio Neron, Valenzuela police chief, interviewed several residents and businessmen but no one could confirm the kidnapping.

The barangay chair, Florencio Pineda, also told investigators that no such kidnapping took place. *Reports from Christian V. Esguerra and AFP*



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Estradas file P20-M suit vs Corpus, PDI

(From page A1)

$211M in US"—on an interview with Corpus. He provided the INQUIRER with the list of the 18 alleged bank accounts of Lacson and his joint accounts with Estrada in the US.

Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, also signed the complaint. The former first lady had been identified in the same news report as keeping a secret deposit in a Hong Kong bank worth around $180 million, a charge which the lady senator has denied.

Principal source

The Estradas said Corpus should be held responsible, because he was the principal source of the "malicious report," that triggered the ongoing investigation in the Senate.

The former first couple insisted that they did "not have any account as reported or published, either jointly . . . or individually."

But according to Corpus, Estrada and Lacson had six joint accounts at the Citibank in Hong Kong with deposits totaling $118,833,107 while Lacson and his wife Alice have a total of $283,245,934 in foreign bank deposits.

Corpus alleged that Lacson and his men from the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force had been involved in bank robberies and drug trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom activities since 1992.

The money from the criminal activities, according to the intelligence chief, has been stashed away in 18 deposits in various branches of Citibank and Bank of America in the United States, Hong Kong and Canada.

Pasig RTC

Estrada's lawyer Cleofe Villar-Verzola filed the P20-million libel suit against Corpus and the INQUIRER before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court yesterday morning. It will be raffled to a Pasig court later this week.

The Estradas sought P5 million in actual damages from Corpus, and P10 million in moral damages, P3 million in exemplary damages, and P2 million in attorney's fees from the INQUIRER.

Aside from Corpus, named in the libel suit were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, managing editor Jose Ma. Nolasco, and reporters Christine Herrera and Carlito Pablo.

FOURTH time around, former President Estrada appears at the Sandiganbayan with son Jinggoy for the pre-trial hearing of his plunder case.

VAL HANDUMON

Sandigan freezes 9 Yolanda accounts

(From page A1)

tion that they were the ones referred to by name in the plunder case. "So every time your name is mentioned in the hearings, do you agree that it refers to you?" the court asked.

"Yes, your honor," replied each of the accused who wore crisp *barong*.

The law defines plunder as a series of criminal acts to amass at least P50 million in illegally acquired wealth. Estrada was arraigned on July 10.

Plunder carried a death sentence.

Estrada was arrested on April 25 on accusations he amassed P4 billion from illegal gambling operators and kickbacks from tobacco taxes during his 31 months in office.

Estrada denies the accusations.

Loi's absence

Unlike in his first three court appearances, wife Sen. Loi Estrada, son Jude and daughter Jackie did not accompany the ousted President.

Only San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito accompanied his father, together with defense lawyers led by former Justice Secretary Serafin Cuevas and former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, an adviser to the defense team.

The accused had to wait for almost an hour inside the courtroom before the three justices entered and took their seats.

During the hearing, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto cited the need for the accused to sign any pre-trial order to be issued by the court. He said the Estradas and Serapio should sign the order in front of the court.

Cuevas said the court could just call on the Estradas requesting their attendance if they had to sign something in court.

Disagreement of defense lawyers

But immediately after Cuevas made the offer, other defense lawyers contradicted him, saying that the lawyers themselves would just let the former President and Jinggoy sign any pre-trial order inside the hospital.

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano said Estrada's lawyers would ensure that the accused understood what they would be signing.

Flaminiano said even the court sheriff could bring the order to the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center, where the ousted President is detained, for signing.

The court failed to resolve this question yesterday. It ended the hearing with Anacleto Badoy Jr., chair of the anti-graft court's Third Division, forgetting to bang the gavel as was required.

The next pre-trial hearing was set for tomorrow, as the court cancelled the hearing earlier scheduled for today.

The Third Division will instead hear the testimony of Jinggoy's cardiologist this afternoon on his bail petition. The prosecution and defense lawyers also agreed to sit down and conduct a joint stipulation of facts on the plunder case today.

On the Ricaforte bank accounts, the Sandiganbayan Sheriff issued a "notice of garnishment" to Equitable PCI Bank president Deogracias Vistan.

The notice was in accordance with the writ of preliminary attachment issued by the court to freeze the nine Ricaforte accounts with the bank.

Ed Urrieta, chief Sandiganbayan security and sheriff, served the writ of preliminary attachment to Equitable PCI Bank to freeze the six savings and three checking accounts of Ricaforte.

The savings accounts were identified as 0157-04227-0, 0288-02037-0, 0276-02029-3, 1359-0087-0, 1276-05659-6 and 0770-00937-5.

The checking accounts were listed as 0107-00638-9, 0238-00053-0 and 1226-00485-4.

The court notice said these accounts were to be garnished or frozen "for the recovery or the satisfaction of any judgment that may be recovered in this case by the plaintiff in the aggregate amount or total value of P4,097,804,173.17 more or less, against the defendant Yolanda T. Ricaforte.

"You are further notified that you should not deliver, transfer or otherwise dispose of such property in your possession belonging to herein defendant (Ricaforte) to any person or entity except to the undersigned," the notice of garnishment said.

Highly imperative

Urrieta also directed Vistan to submit a reply to the notice of garnishment within five days from its receipt.

In a resolution dated Aug. 31, the court said the "attachment" or freezing of the Ricaforte accounts was "highly imperative to forestall any attempt to withdraw, conceal, transfer or otherwise dispose of the same deposits to other parties/dummies."

Badoy delays hearing

The hearings did not start as scheduled at 2 p.m., because Badoy called a press conference outside the courtroom at 2:10 p.m., minutes after Estrada and the other accused were escorted into the courtroom.

Badoy's press conference virtually put to naught the security preparations for the media, including the strict roll call enforced on reporters allowed to go inside the courtroom.

Badoy called out to the members of the media who were already seated inside the courtroom to explain his decision why he did not inhibit himself from the plunder case.

The defense had asked for Badoy's inhibition as his brother, who had a pending graft case with the Sandiganbayan, was recently reappointed as trustee of the Local Water Utilities Administration.

The defense panel said it would petition the Supreme Court to inhibit Badoy from the plunder case.

Plunder watch

Outside the courtroom, militant groups lamented the "mishandling" of the plunder cases against Estrada.

In an open letter, Plunder Watch took Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to task for several "mistakes" in the prosecution of the case.

Before Estrada's pretrial yesterday, Edsa II personalities gave Desierto a copy of the letter to express their "deep concern" over the "bungling by the prosecution of the plunder case and other charges" against Estrada and his co-accused.

Plunder Watch, formerly the Estrada Resign Movement (Resign!), cited the "lack of preparation if not outright incompetence on the part of the deputy ombudsmen and special prosecutors and their seemingly deliberate acts to undermine the cases before the Sandiganbayan."

Plunder Watch convenor Maan Hontiveros urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to remove the "incompetent and possibly tainted deputy ombudsmen and special prosecutors" and replace them with "lawyers with unquestioned integrity and sterling qualifications."

"This will dispel the cloud of doubt now looming over the government's prosecution efforts against Estrada and his cohorts," Hontiveros said.

In the open letter, Plunder Watch pointed out the other major "mistakes" of the public prosecutors for which it held Desierto accountable:

- The filing of graft charges along with the main plunder case that may result in double jeopardy;
- The failure to charge Estrada's co-conspirators such as Jaime Dichaves, Dante Tan, William Gatchalian and Lucio Tan with plunder.
- The public prosecutors' botching of the perjury case against Estrada;
- The failure of the public prosecutors to oppose Jinggoy Estrada's motion to "clear his desk" as outgoing mayor of San Juan.

Hontiveros noted that Desierto had not acted on the issues raised by Plunder watch despite five meetings with him.

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, a signatory to the open letter, said the Ombudsman's moves merely reflected the Macapagal administration's lack of political will in pursuing the case.

"The Office of the Ombudsman takes its cue from the President. If Malacañang does not show interest and zeal in pursuing the case, the public prosecutors will be easily swayed by Estrada's money, power and influence," said Bayan secretary general Teodoro Casiño. *With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

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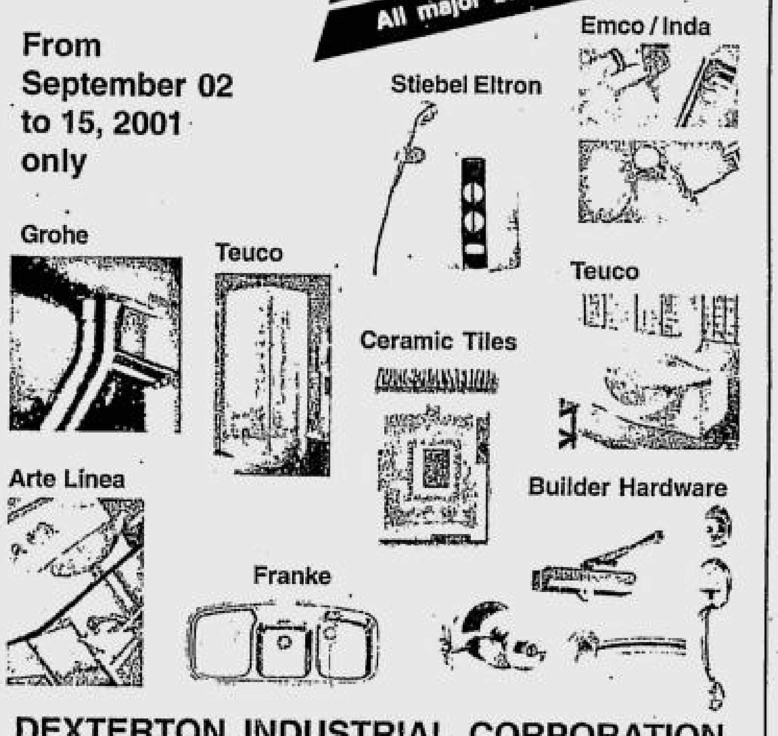

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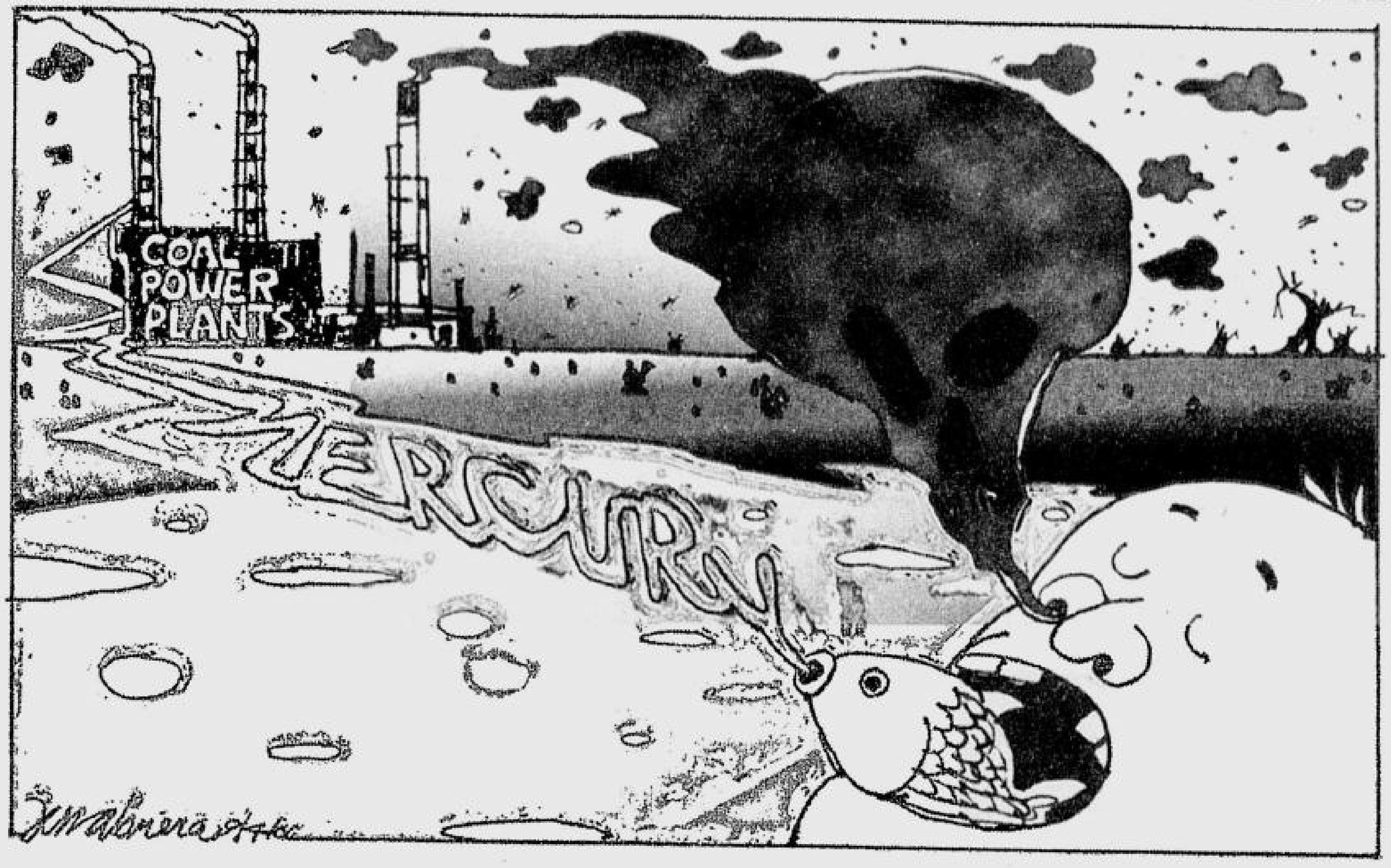


Charter change

EDITORIAL

A PROPOSAL to introduce amendments to the Constitution has expectedly drawn opposition and endorsement from various sectors of society. Those who oppose the discussion of constitutional amendments now say that the move is not timely because the nation is still going through a period of political and economic turbulence and the discussion of controversial amendments could further divide the nation.

Those who endorse the proposal say that the present time is the most propitious time because President Macapagal has no personal stake in the amendments to be proposed since she is serving out the balance of the term of a deposed president and can run for reelection in 2004. A shift to the parliamentary system will still allow her to aspire for the prime ministership. The present situation is unlike the situations in 1997, when a constitutional amendment would have benefited then President Fidel V. Ramos by allowing him to run for a second term, and in 1999, when a similar move would have benefited then President Joseph Estrada.

Those who favor the amendment of the Constitution now also say that a shift from the presidential to the parliamentary system would give the people a constitutional outlet for dismissing a head of government who has lost the mandate to govern. Thus, political disturbances like People Power II and the May 1 "rebellion" could be avoided and a change of government could be brought about through constitutional and peaceful means.

Those who oppose the amendment of the Constitution at this time, like President Macapagal, say that it will distract the attention of legislators and other government officials from the nation's economic problems which need immediate solutions.

Although recently we received encouraging news that the country posted a 3.3 percent growth in gross domestic product, the economy is not yet out of the woods. There is still the possibility that the economic slowdown in developed countries like the United States and Japan may yet affect the Philippine economy in the next few months and in the coming year. The opposers of Charter change say that the current period of economic uncertainty may not be the most propitious time for discussing proposed constitutional amendments.

The opposers also say that the present is also a period of political turmoil. Senate and House investigations of the money laundering and other charges against Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the charges of collusion between ranking AFP officers and the Abu Sayyaf are said to be creating "a disturbance" in the military and the national police. Rumors of coup plots and destabilization moves are flying about. This, according to those who oppose the amendment of the Constitution at this time, is not a healthy climate for the discussion of proposed Charter changes.

But those who endorse Charter change say that a shift to the parliamentary system would precisely deal with the "political turbulence" caused by the attempt of deposed President Estrada's supporters to seize Malacañang and reinstall Estrada. They also cite the "continuing crisis" caused by Moro rebels, the Abu Sayyaf and the communists and the "politics engendered by the Marcos dictatorship and the Estrada plunder that continues to hover over the life of the nation." They say that the amendment of the Constitution would help the government deal with the crisis.

The President herself sees no need to amend the Constitution now. This, despite a "sweetener" offered by one of the proponents of Charter change: the extension of her term to June 30, 2007. The President remains focussed on the problems of the day, and she would not want the nation's concentration on these problems to be distracted by the highly political and controversial proposal to amend the Constitution.

There is no question that there is a need to amend the Constitution. It is an imperfect document that could stand some change. But the issue is the timing of the constitutional amendments.

The President and the members of Congress would do well to consider the arguments of the proponents of the proposal to amend the Constitution now. The President herself would have no personal stake in Charter change and her motives would not be suspect. A constitutional convention say, in 2002 or 2003, may be advisable, for the reasons given by the proponents of Charter change. It is a proposal that deserves serious consideration.

The perfect solution to Metro Manila's garbage problem

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

CHAIR Benjamin Abalos of the Metro Manila Development Authority has finally admitted that the garbage crisis has reached critical proportions and that there is a "clear and present danger" that an epidemic will break out. He also admitted that his favorite segregation scheme is a failure and that the root cause of the crisis is the lack of a dump for Metro Manila's garbage, and he has failed to find one. Looking for a dump is the job of the MMDA.

"Segregation is alright, but that will not solve the problem," Abalos told the Senate committee on environment. "You can segregate, but if you don't have a site to bring the segregated trash, *balik na naman tayo sa* original *na problema: saan ka magtatapon.*"

Abalos should have admitted that a long time ago and taken steps to find a site instead of passing the buck by blaming mayors, garbage collectors and households for the garbage crisis and threatening them with jail terms and fines. Abalos cannot find a dump as long as his mindset is on dumping Metro Manila's garbage on its neighbors. Nobody will agree to living next-door to a garbage dump. And why should Metro Manila punish its neighbors by dumping its trash on them?

Yesterday, Abalos announced that he has already found a dump and that the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has already issued an environmental compliance certificate for it. That is in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban), Rizal. The mayor approves but the residents themselves oppose it. Who wouldn't?

Kawawa naman ang mga taga Montalban. Quarry operators are leveling their hills and polluting their rivers that threaten to drown them in flashfloods during heavy rains, and now their municipality will be turned into the garbage dump of Metro Manila. What did they ever do to deserve this?

Metro Manila is being arrogant in thinking that it has the right to throw its trash on its neighbors' backyards. Abalos wants a law passed that would give the DENR the exclusive right to pinpoint the site of a dump, never mind if the residents don't want it. This should not be done. What if the DENR points to Abalos' backyard, how would he feel?

Alright, lack of a dump is the root cause of the garbage crisis because our neighbors oppose locating the garbage dump in their municipalities. So where do we find an acceptable dump? Where else but in a place where it won't bother anybody. It should be far away from residential communities but near enough to Metro Manila so that transportation costs and travel time won't be so big. So where can Abalos find that ideal place?

Well, all Abalos has to do is be more original, stop being an old fogey with a mindset and accept new ideas. All he has to do is look west toward the vast sea. Use the garbage to reclaim a part of the sea.

Before the environmentalists jump on me, let me stress that the reclamation should not pollute the sea. Japan has reclaimed with trash parts of Tokyo Bay and the United States has done the same with parts of its swamps and rivers without polluting the waters.

Furthermore, there is now a new technology called "hyrdomex" (fortunately now being offered to the Philippines) that compresses garbage into blocks as hard and waterproof as concrete. The garbage is first shredded, then a binder is added before it is compressed into blocks. These blocks are then used to reclaim the sea. In time, the government will have hectares and hectares of valuable land for free. Reclamation with garbage kills two birds with one stone: it gets rid of the garbage and the government gets free land. Instead of garbage disposal costing the government a lot of money, it will now be a money-making one.

If the minds of our officials cannot fathom this new concept, R-II Builders, the company that has reclaimed part of the Tondo foreshore area off Smokey Mountain, has proposed to reclaim with raw garbage a "green island" on a shallow portion of Manila Bay. The "green island" won't pollute the waters of Manila Bay as enough safeguards will be put in place to prevent that. First, synthetic liners, a clay mat and sand will be placed at the bottom of the landfill to prevent pollutants from seeping into the groundwater. A drainage system will collect the leachate and then clean it in a wastewater treatment plant so it can be released into the sea. A network of gas drainage wells will be installed for the methane gas generated by the decomposition of the garbage. Finally, a top-isolation layer will be placed once the maximum filling height is reached to prevent rainwater from percolating into the landfill.

Then there is the enzyme proposal of Waste Wise International (As I See It, 8-16-01) that dissolves organic waste into liquid fertilizer. While the two reclamation proposals will take time to implement, the latter can be done immediately. In fact, it is being done now on a small scale by meat processing plants. However, a dump will still be needed for the non-biodegradable trash that cannot be recycled.

So the two methods can co-exist, even with the successful implementation of the segregation policy mandated by law. Recyclable materials will go to recycling plants, organic wastes to the fertilizer plant, and the rest to the island landfill.

This should be the Utopia that Abalos dreams about. But first, he must get rid of the garbage polluting Metro Manila's streets.

Honor

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THIS country never ceases to amaze me. I just saw another instance of homegrown magic realism last weekend. This took the form of the PMAers being roused to a fierce debate by the manner in which Sen. Panfilo Lacson took on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes at the Senate last week. At one point, Lacson asked Reyes, "All right, sir"? In PMA parlance apparently, that is a challenge hurled against somebody. It means, "Are you telling the truth?" which of course comes from doubting or protesting what one has just said. The question invokes the PMA's time-honored code of honor. It is the equivalent of swearing by the Bible by devout Christians. It is swearing by a code one values more than life itself.

According to an INQUIRER informant, only upperclassmen have the right to challenge subordinates in this way. The question is normally shouted by a guard in front of a barracks door after taps. "Cadets who do not respond to the challenge already violate the code, which prescribes they should not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

Lacson apparently broke precedent by asking a superior, "All right, sir?" It was an insult to Reyes, who is five years Lacson's senior. On the other hand, many PMAers are also bothered that Reyes did not rise to Lacson's challenge, preferring to skirt it by saying he had already sworn to tell the truth before the Senate. Among some PMAers at least, merely taking an oath before the Senate is not enough. It is not the most binding claim to truth-telling there is.

What makes all this profoundly ironic is the superimposition of concepts of nobility on the most ignoble of realities. Or at least on a hearing dedicated to ferreting out the truth about the participation in or authorship of big-time drug-pushing and kidnapping by the country's former foremost law enforcer. What makes this profoundly magic-realist is the superimposition of the concepts of honor on the most dishonorable of realities. Or at least to suggestions that AFP officials themselves have been conniving with the Abu Sayyaf to kidnap people.

The sensation is not unlike a group of critics discussing the aesthetic merits of a triple X movie. Whether the plot of the movie conforms to Aristotle's principles of unity of time, place and action, or whether it adopts a looser structure, which is more in keeping with modern ways of storytelling. It is that incongruous.

All this talk of honor does not make the people involved in this issue, or the institutions they represent, look more honorable. It makes them infinitely less so. At the very least, it makes us wonder why an institution that is so steeped in a tradition of honor, indeed that bandies shibboleths of honor and duty and truthfulness, should routinely produce some of the most dishonorable, faithless and deceitful people on earth. Like the seminary, it is military school that most resonates with admonitions to virtue and the unblemished life. Unlike the seminary, it is military school that produces graduates that are least given to virtue and the unblemished life. No institution gives a more striking contrast between the seeming loftiness of its culture and the actual depravity of its results.

PMAers will naturally object to this proposition and say that the institution they love has also produced fine individuals and leaders. But you survey the field and you realize those are the exceptions rather than the rule. You look at the conduct in real life of military and police officers, many of them PMAers, which is how they became officers in the first place, and you will be hard put to reconcile it with such things as discipline, duty and honor. Certainly, you will be hard put to reconcile it with the thought that military officers will not abide misconduct among their fellows. The opposite seems true: Military officers will hide one another's malfeasance to protect their institution's "honor."

Which makes us wonder further if the same code of honor that Lacson has so freely bandied about is not in fact the source of the very dishonor it condemns. It is, after all, the same code of honor that has produced the so-called "mistah system," the practice of military and police officers closing ranks to protect their own. Indeed, at a deeper level, the practice of military and police officers owing no higher loyalty than to themselves or to the military community.

It is certainly revealing that they should debate whether Lacson has broken protocol by challenging Reyes to tell the truth. Its presumption being that Lacson, who is now an elective official, and a senator at that, should remain the subordinate of Reyes, who is a mere appointee as the AFP chief. Once a priest, always a priest. The same seems true of soldiers. For most of the men in uniform, ex or current, Lacson's and Reyes' roles have not changed at all. They remain military officers, bound by a code, not unlike that of *omerta*—which, quite incidentally, is not just a code of silence but a code of loyalty with its own concepts of honor.

In fact, it is not unlike the code of honor practiced by fraternities, and even the *barkada* system, as embodied by Erap. The fraternity also resonates with shibboleths of honor, it veritably drowns in them, an honor that is inextricably linked, and often reduces itself, to absolute loyalty to the group. And Erap himself was not without a code of honor, which he understood as undying friendship, the kind shown by Fernando Poe Jr. and Rudy Fernandez—"*walang iwanan.*" Which was the same code of honor that spawned the Marcos loyalists. The greatest treachery in this code is not lying—the honor of the institution sanctions lying itself—it is betraying a friend or "brod" or "mistah."

It's enough, when you hear honor invoked in this way, to remind you of Mark Anthony's sarcasm about the men who assassinated Caesar: "But these are all honorable men."

Pinoys in Taiwan face wage cut due to recession

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

DEPOSED President Joseph Estrada faced the court again in pre-trial yesterday, but it is clear that he has already become a spent force. There was not much interest in his trial for plunder, as it has become evident that he has yielded the leadership of the political opposition to his former trusted lieutenant and now his political heir, Sen. Panfilo Lacson. What has clearly emerged is that the ongoing Senate investigation of Lacson's alleged crimes has preoccupied the nation far more than the coming Estrada trial, as agent Mary Ong continues to weave her intricately detailed tale of drug-trafficking, high-level corruption, a soured love relationship, murder and betrayal. All these are elements of the most compelling telenovela, which months ago belonged to the Erap-Chavit Singson melodrama. Today it's the Corpus-Rosebud tandem vs. Lacson and his boys.

* * *

Lacson has emerged as Estrada's heir and the rallying point of the opposition. Ironically, however, his allies in the Senate, such as Sen. Edgardo Angara, Gregorio Honasan, Rodolfo Biazon and now even Teresa Oreta appear to have distanced themselves from him, as Rosebud's very credible tale of organized crime shifts into high gear. It remains unclear whether Sen. Blas Ople, who I had hoped would manage to redeem himself from his Marcos days, would file that inutile resolution to stop the Corpus hearings.

In fact, the opposition is in a pathetic jam now, as it sees the people being galvanized into action once more against evil and crime. The opposition dares not now speak out in defense of Lacson, lest they be perceived as approving these elements. But it is perhaps karma for the political oppositionists. Long ago they knew all the crimes associated with the Erap regime was going on, but except for Biazon, who made a break at the opportune time, all of them chose to play blind to all the evil that was going on.

* * *

While in Taipei recently, I had a brief conversation with labor attaché Elliot Cojuangco and Edmund Tangco of the legal panel of the Taipei-based Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) about the situation of the 80,000 Filipino contract workers in Taiwan. They told me that the caliber of the Pinoys there is high, compared to those from Thailand, Indonesia and other Asian countries. The biggest group is composed of the Thais who number 110,000, followed by the Filipinos. Our workers earn a base pay equivalent to P17,000 or P18,000 a month, not counting overtime pay. Unlike other nationalities who hold "dirty and dangerous" jobs, as Cojuangco put it, majority of the Filipinos work in the technical field as engineers, construction foremen and highly skilled factory workers, while a lesser number serve as domestics and *yayas*. Cojuangco pointed out that the feud last year between the Thais and the Filipinos in the Maliao plant of the Taiwanese industrial giant, Formosa Plastics, erupted over a small matter—queuing up to make overseas calls—but that was an isolated incident. For the most part, says Tangco, who has been with Meco for six years, the situation of Pinoy workers remains peaceful.

* * *

But there is a big problem looming up, according to them. The economy of Taiwan is, like those of other Asian countries, in pretty bad shape now. The third quarter is predicted to show a technical recession, following the first two quarters' negative growth (two successive quarters of negative growth qualifies as a recession). Taiwanese stocks have also been falling. To cut costs, many Taiwanese companies are going abroad where wages are lower, and for them, as with the rest of the world, a favorite destination these days is mainland China where conditions are controlled by the communist state. Labor in China is so cheap and there are no strikes.

* * *

The recession in Taiwan has affected the labor force, as 5 percent or nearly 500,000 are out of work. This is bound to affect foreign workers since the government would naturally prefer to give their unemployed first crack at jobs. In fact, my sources pointed out that Taiwanese employers are now clamoring for a cut in pay for foreign workers ranging from NT$2,500 to as much as NT$5,000. Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas and the POEA have objected to this cut and the government is looking at the possibility of having the cuts taken instead from the fat fees earned by Taiwanese brokers or middlemen. The situation bears watching.

* * *

Speaker Joe de Venecia, who led our multi-faith delegation to a conference between Buddhists and Christians in Taipei and Puli City in Taiwan, told us that before we left he had informed the ambassador of the People's Republic of China (mainland China) about the cultural purpose of our trip. This is doubtless to preempt any problem regarding the Philippines' one-China policy, arising from the visit to Taiwan of the fourth highest official of the land.

China is very sensitive about any public dealings with Taiwan by officials of countries with whom China has diplomatic relations, and De Venecia was being prudent when he told the Chinese ambassador about the nature of our trip. The irony, however, is that there are on-going relations of all sorts between China and its one-time province. Rich Taiwanese businessmen have been investing heavily in China, lured by the huge market of 1.2 billion people, the low wages and no strikes. For instance, the Formosa Plastics Group, one of the biggest and most diversified conglomerates in Taiwan, is building three coal-fired power plants in China, each with a 600-megawatt capacity. Taiwanese tourists are flocking to the mainland to see the fabled sights as well as their relatives, though they have to fly to another port of entry, such as Hong Kong or Manila, since there are no direct flights between China and Taiwan. In the Buddhist-Christian dialogue we attended in Taiwan, prominent Buddhist leaders from China were in attendance.

It used to be that China would do a lot of saber-rattling toward its former province from across the straits, but that seems to be a thing of the past now, as unofficial economic relations between the two countries escalate. China watchers in Taiwan say that China would be quite happy about the continued separation so long as the island fortress doesn't ally with any bloc that would be categorically against China. But which country can afford to be China's enemy?

Disturbances

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

DISTURBANCES? The ongoing hearings on controversies involving the Armed Forces and the police are causing "disturbances" among our men and women in uniform? Well, I would hope so.

If allegations that senior officers were conniving with the Abu Sayyaf, and that senior police officers were involved in drugs and kidnapping do not "disturb" the rank-and-file of the AFP and the PNP, then they must all be asleep or playing dead. Unless that's what they've been all this time, fully aware of the shenanigans going on, but posing like the proverbial three monkeys: See no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil.

The charges being leveled against General Dominguez and other senior officers during the Lamitan siege, and against former PNP chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson and other former high-ranking police officials, are serious. They bring to question the senior officers' loyalty to their oaths as officers, and to the country, the government and the Constitution. If I were an ordinary soldier or police, I would be more than disturbed, I would be upset, agitated, indeed incensed. Not at those raising these charges, but at the senior officers, if it should be proven that the charges have basis in fact. I would certainly want to get to the bottom of allegations that ordinary soldiers and police were being asked to risk their lives not to enforce the law or crush criminality, but to enrich their superiors.

Why, then are warnings about the "disturbances" among the military and police sounding like veiled threats that the investigations could compel the "disturbed" elements into crossing the line to mount a coup? Is questioning the capacity and honesty of their leaders tantamount to insulting them wholesale? That's carrying brotherhood too far!

* * *

CONSIDER what we have heard so far about the Lamitan incident. Scout Ranger Captain Ginulbay testified before a House panel that he and his men were transported from Zamboanga to Lamitan in Basilan, disarmed of heavy weaponry, then driven straight into an ambush by the Abu Sayyaf. Pinned down by enemy fire, with only rudimentary rifles to defend themselves with, Ginulbay and his men waited in vain for reinforcements to arrive.

And yet, what was the military establishment telling the folks back in Manila? That troops had the Abu Sayyaf cornered; that any minute, the bandits and their leaders were going to fall into government hands since the hospital they were holed up in had been surrounded.

Nearly overwhelmed by superior fire, the Scout Rangers nevertheless managed to keep the ASG at bay. Yet at a crucial time, before night fell, the commanders and their men were ordered to withdraw for a "briefing." And though the bandits had already made their escape that evening, the troops in Lamitan were later ordered to keep bombarding the hospital until the following afternoon.

If I were Captain Ginulbay, or his men, or a relative of any of the soldiers in Lamitan at that time, I would be avidly following the hearings and cheering on the courageous witnesses who wish to tell the truth about what happened on that day. Two Rangers died in the initial volley. I would want to know if they died for good reason, if there was really a chance to "get" the Abu Sayyaf at that time, and if this was the commanders' intention all that time. Never mind the question of a general's supposed share of the alleged ransom. Basic command competence is at issue here.

Disturbed? If I was a parent or spouse of one of those killed in Lamitan, I'd be talking to lawyers about a wrongful death suit.

* * *

NOW on to less serious matters. Showing soon in theaters is "A Knight's Tale," a movie set in 14th century Europe that manages to leap across time to enthrall 21st century audiences.

To do this, writer/director/producer Brian Helgeland borrowed a leaf from "Moulin Rouge," though both films showed almost simultaneously in the United States. That is, Helgeland used rock music to give the medieval settings modern sizzle, in the same way that Baz Luhrman charged up his love story set in turn-of-the-century Paris with songs from sources as varied as "Sound of Music," Elton John, Nirvana and Madonna.

In some weird and wacky way, seeing nobility and serfs cheering on jousting knights to the thumping rhythms of Queen's "We Will Rock You" doesn't just make sense, it lifts it from a mere costume epic to a rollicking experience.

The moviemakers expended a lot of effort to create an "authentic" look for "A Knight's Tale." No gaudy shiny synthetic robes here, but a more earthy, even grunge look better suited to those grubby times. But there is also a delightful air of irreverence, with many characters displaying a very 21st century insouciance.

* * *

IT'S a wonderful romp, part heroic quest, part road trip, part romantic fable, part action.

Heath Ledger is quite winning as the impetuous and foolhardy William, who decides to participate in royal revels when his knight master dies. This, despite the fact that he is born to a humble station and is thus unqualified for the jousting contests which are exclusive to nobility.

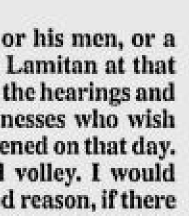
He is surrounded by a lively cast of sidekicks, including one naked vagabond by the name of Geoff Chaucer. Yes, no less than the medieval bard himself transformed into a silver-tongued huckster with a gambling problem.

William's love interest is the noble lady Jocelyn, played by Shannyn Sossamon who leaps from anonymity to stardom in this her first movie role. A highlight of the film, for me, are Jocelyn's costumes, definitely a cut above the usual designs in period films. They have a modern edge and are made from unusual materials, including our native *sinamay*, fashioned into a luscious gown and hat.

Music that rocks, action scenes that take one's breath away, humor and a little romance, "A Knight's Tale" makes for a wonderful diversion, especially in these times of "disturbances."

Pirate wars (3)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



Bambi L. Harper

IF I told you that economists in the 1960s were going around saying that the solution to the nation's ills was to develop the countryside, would you throw in the towel seeing that was 40 years and billions of pork barrels ago and it still hasn't been done? If I said my late husband used to claim that putting money into the hands of farmers (rather than the middleman) would spur the economy, would it sound familiar? Think of how many pairs of rubber shoes and shirts for their children and refrigerators they could have bought.

The situation has reached the point where you begin to wonder whether there is something wrong with the general I.Q. and comprehension since the obvious solution is never done. And let's not accept the excuse that there's no money if a mere policeman (am I using the wrong adjective?) can declare a net worth of P21 million.

There is no doubt the Muslims have always felt neglected. As a matter of fact, the south is given to describing the government as "Imperial Manila"—said snidely, of course. There's nothing imperial about the state of disrepair and disarray in the capital.

You could also say that the Abu Sayyaf crisis is one of long standing and has its roots much further back in time. Toward the end of the 18th century after the British invasion (but not necessarily because of it) commerce was dead due to the conflict with the Moros. The latter had burned the towns of Caraga, Iligan, burnt and sacked Iponan, Alilitum, Gompot, Salay and Sipaca. On the island of Camiguin, they had killed many of the inhabitants and captured others.

In Cebu, they had invaded the *visitas* of Nahalin and Luyan, burning and looting the towns. Sorsogon and Ticao were looted and put to the torch. A religious was seized and he had to be ransomed not once but twice. Ironically officials decided to construct a stone fort in San Jacinto and a stockade in Mobo after the fact.

The raids caused much harm to the towns of Tablas and Sibuyan in Panay and the only religious who administered to them died in the mountains where he had sought refuge. The Calamianes were also invaded, as a result of which small forts were built all over those islands but these hardly stopped the Moros from seizing the parish priest in the capital.

Neither was Mindoro spared, with one religious killed and the other kidnapped and brought to Jolo. Many priests together with the inhabitants became fugitives in the mountains, returning to the capital so emaciated they looked dead. Mariveles and Cabcaben in Bataan, within sight of Manila, was likewise sacked and burned and the parish priest was captured.

There were so many captives their number could not be ascertained. It was calculated that Caraga lost half its inhabitants while on the islands of Tablas, Ticao and Masbate, two-thirds of the residents were gone. No inhabited towns were left in Burias.

The provinces in the interior didn't fare any better. Since 1669, Oton (Iloilo's old name) suffered many attacks, the worst being the capture of eight ships returning from Albay with some P10,000 belonging to the towns of Miagao, Igbaras, Guimbal and Tigbaran with over 200 people kidnapped. The natives of Iloilo out of necessity had to look for their livelihood in Negros or take innumerable risks by going out to sea in their *barotos*. Anilao was completely destroyed as well as Dumangas, once the most progressive and cultured in all of Iloilo. There amid its ashes and debris no one remained who was not dressed in mourning. There came a point when the roads were planted to human arms, legs and body members of the victims.

The Moros had established a large squadron between the strait of Negros and Iloilo where all the embarkations took place. They struck Oton at 7 in the morning, taking the inhabitants by surprise. The Moro squadron captured a warship, kidnapped the chief magistrate of Negros and three religious who were then ransomed from Jolo for a very large sum. The pirates dominated small islands like Guimaras where the Ilongos sourced their rattan and other necessities, causing undue hardships. Those taken captive were brought to the island of Inandpologan where a primitive prison was built until they numbered four or five and they were transferred to Jolo.

On another occasion, 30 boatloads of Moros landed in Oton to burn the convent and church of Suragan and capture anyone who couldn't manage to run away. Serving as rearguard were 130 boats more of Borneans, Mindanaos and Joloanos who raided 17 towns in Leyte. The pirates fought not only with steel blades but also with rifles which they had managed to acquire in quantity.

Since the towns of Samar were distant from each other, the Moros could come and go with impunity, reducing the inhabitants and the Franciscans, who had replaced the Jesuits, to little forts and stockades where they also served as soldiers.

In the missions of Mount Isarog in Camarines, the pirates period managed to capture five Recollects, stabbing to death four while the other drowned. Of the three Augustinians, two died of illness and the other went insane.

Mardicas had once manned Corregidor, warning Manila by means of signals of any Moro incursions but they were harassed by enemies and retreated to Maragondon, leaving the pirates an open door to enter the bay especially at night by traveling along the coast line. In this manner they attacked Tambobong, Malate, Parañaque and seized passengers disembarking in the towns of Bulacan.

(*Data from "Guerras Piraticas de Filipinas," Jose Barrantes, 1878. San Miguel.*)

Waiting for Deutsche

Paolo Bugayong

OUR greatest fear was confirmed last week when we learned that Deutsche was in very critical condition. The bone marrow transplant he had at the Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem had failed. We were told his health was rapidly deteriorating. His doctor said he may not survive the long plane ride back home.

When he was in Grade 4 at the Ateneo, Deutsche was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia (CML), a rare and deadly type of blood cancer. That marked the beginning of a long and harrowing saga for the family. The only cure is a bone marrow transplant.

YOUNGBLOOD

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Through the help of friends and relatives, Deutsche and his family traveled to the United States and started to search for a possible donor. They could not find one.

Then a gift from heaven came: his brother Mike was born. Mike's bone marrow matched perfectly with that of Deutsche. Without baby Mike, Deutsche would have been lucky to live a year.

Being a brave young man, Deutsche went through elementary, high school and then to college like an ordinary student, never losing hope and keeping his faith in the Lord. The Dalumpines family, despite the financial and emotional costs, did everything to save Deutsche and give him the future that he deserves.

To us his *barkada*, Deutsche is a real good friend. He is super cool and intelligent. He never bothered us about his cancer. He would always surprise us with his jokes, camouflaging the seriousness of his illness with his funny antics. He is a character, strong and never a burden to us. He always finds time to mix with us, join *gimiks* and do the usual things college students at the Ateneo do. He is very conscious though about his health, like avoid getting colds.

In December 2000, he was advised to have another bone marrow transplant because he had a relapse. But it was only on June 1 this year that Deutsche left for Jerusalem for the operation.

Before he left, we got together and told him we expected him to be back very soon. He promised to do so.

He sent us e-mails regularly for the past three months. Then the other weekend, there was no e-mail from him.

Now we are waiting, but not for his e-mail anymore but for him to come home.

The news of the failed transplant came as a big blow to us. We cried even more when we learned that he was suffering and in serious condition. The side effects of the morphine and chemo therapy were becoming unbearable: fatigue, hallucination, severe anemia, enlarged spleen and liver, edema and wrenching bone pain.

Every day while we wait, we look back and recall his jokes, and then we laugh, smile, cry and worry. Each day is getting longer and longer for us. We want to see him again and to be with him. We feel disconnected and useless as friends. Sometimes we just stare at each other in school. Yes we worry about our studies but we worry more about our friend. Our day will never be complete without him.

We will continue to do our part, look for ways to help the family, offer daily prayers, hope for a miracle and prepare for his much awaited arrival. Even if it takes much longer, we will continue to wait for our dear friend Deutsche.

Paolo Bugayong, 21, is a management economics junior at the Ateneo de Manila University. He and his friends thought of wiring about Deutsche in the hope that some generous people will help the Dalumpines family.

Money

L.E.S.B.

IT is so frustrating not to have money in your pocket. No, I don't have children. I am not even married. I am only out of school.

Money, money, money. Have you ever tried living without money? This darn thing you need in order to live.

I hate it. Why do we need money anyway? It is so annoying when you don't have it. You can't do anything. If you want to eat, you need money. Starting a business? You need money. Calling for help? You still need money. It seems as if everything you do has to be paid for with money.

How about looking for a job, you might ask. You still need money to find one, even a job that pays much less than the minimum wage. Even if only for your fare so that you can go around hunting for jobs, you still need money.

You're 19 and penniless and living a parasitic life because you don't want to hold a low-paying job, just for the time being to earn some cash for your education. What you want is to earn big and fast! So what do you do?

There are only two months left before the next semester begins and you still have no money. No, you don't want any relative's help; you're tired of being told what to do. Your father is in another "world" and he's got no money to give you, anyway. Your mother is jobless—temporarily, you hope, but one can never tell in times like these when the economy is sputtering. *Kuya* is not earning enough to send you to college. What will you do? Panic, panic, panic.

First, you look around to see if there's anything you can sell. Wait, how about pawning some jewelry? But you don't have any. So you're back to hunting for something. Where's that old-coin collection you've been keeping? But the coins are just a few decades old, and they won't fetch enough cash to allow you to enroll for a single semester.

Now what? Think, think, think. Aha! Don't you have a talent for drawing? How about writing? So how about using those God-given talents?

Quick! Get a pen and pencil and those other stuff you need. But where will you send it? Who will pay for it? Who will buy it? Do you have any connections? No? Well, try your luck with the worldwide web. Will you get lucky? Probably?

Join those contests anyway, those illustration competitions that offer hundreds of dollars in prizes. C'mon you can do it. Just try.

But where will you get the money so you can send your entry? Hey, didn't you sell some of your old coins? Yeah, right.

Did you win? Oh well, better luck next time.

Try again. Another contest needs international reply coupons. You have to send one to the United States. You rush to the nearest post office, only to be told that there are no such things; only "big cities" have them. Sorry.

Don't lose hope, yet! There are other contests you can join. You don't want anymore? *Ang bilis mo namang magtampo.*

Why not try writing a short story or a poem, essays, etc., etc. O, you're finished? Send it right away! Go and send everything to any publication that accepts such materials. You're desperate to earn money anyway, whatever the amount. You've changed your mind about earning big-time in one shot. And you are willing to try some other things, too, not just use those two talents you have.

Anyway, here I am, still penniless for now. Really, when you have no money, you become desperate and do things you don't normally do or haven't thought about. Someone needs to earn, and that's why you're reading my work.

L.E.S.B., 19, has not made up her mind what she will take up if she ever has enough money to enroll in college.

The Thomasite experiment

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST Aug. 21 was the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Thomasites, 523 mostly young Americans who came on a ship named the Thomas. Earlier, President William McKinley had ordered the establishment of a system of primary instruction for Filipinos and the introduction of English as a common medium of communication.

The Education Act of 1901 authorized the colonial government to recruit American teachers to help establish the new educational system. The government offered salaries higher than the going rates in the United States. More than 8,000 Americans applied, including 80 former soldiers who had chosen to stay on as teachers in the Philippines after the Filipino-American war. The rest had to be transported from the United States: 48 arrived in June 1901 on the ship Sheridan while 523 came on the Thomas. More were to follow in the next year, swelling the total number of American teachers to 1074.

Who were these Americans, and what motivated them to come to the Philippines? We have some clues from a book, "The Log of the Thomas," describing the teachers and their voyage across the Pacific. (Excerpts from that book are posted on a website dedicated to the Thomasites: www.thomasites100. org.)

The Thomasites came from all over the United States, the largest numbers coming from the more cosmopolitan areas such as New York, California, Massachusetts and Michigan. They came from all kinds of schools, including Ivy League universities such as Harvard, Yale and Princeton. Many were young, some fresh out of school. But there were also older teachers, with many years of experience and with impressive backgrounds, including, for example, one C. Goddard, who had a master's of law degree from the Catholic University.

The Thomasites' interests were certainly varied. We learn from the ship's log that they lugged in musical instruments and telescopes. The Thomasites also had a sense of humor: "The Log of the Thomas" included observations about co-passengers such as flies, fleas and German cockroaches. One Thomasite wrote a poem about someone flirting with a woman making "goo-goo eyes" who, it turned out, was rolling her eyes from seasickness.

There were 141 women among the Thomasites, an impressive number when you consider this was the turn of the 20th century. The composition of the Thomasites tells us about the uneven pace of women's emancipation in the United States at that time: states like Alabama and Georgia only had male teachers but California's contingent had 24 women, outnumbering the 17 men. One wonders about how headstrong some of these women may have been and the impact they had on young Filipinos.

The Thomasites included a few families, that is, husband and wife teams, some with children. From Hawaii, there were the Townsends and Hilts, each with three children. From Washington state, there were the Davises, who brought their five children. (The ship's log also mentions there were two cats and three dogs on board the Thomas. I don't know if they were pets that came with any of the families.)

What spurred these Americans to come over, sometimes with their families? It was probably the notion of the "white man's burden" to uplift their "little brown brothers" in America's first colonial enterprise. "The Log of the Thomas" features a poem written by Carrie Rice Shaw, who saw the Thomas as it sailed off to the Philippines. Shaw imagines the islands "Where dark-hued children playing/Beneath their sunny skies." Her last paragraph captures the Americans' sense of manifest destiny: "And on the deck was Destiny/ And Love all silence-shod/And true-eyed Faith, transmitting/The messages of God."

Not all of these teachers were fired by this sense of mission. One of the Americans described his colleagues as "a regiment of carpetbaggers, come to exploit the country in their small way." Letters from one of these teachers, Blaine Free Moore, showed him to be more interested in mining adventures than in teaching. He had little love for Filipinos, describing his pupils in Tarlac as "170 wriggling, squirming, talking barbarians" and Filipino teachers at a provincial normal school as "brown half-savages."

It would be unfair, of course, to generalize from this one character. The American teachers did have to make great sacrifices. Within the first 20 months after the arrival of the Thomasites, 27 of them died of tropical diseases or were murdered by bandits. Glenn Anthony May in his book, "Social Engineering in the Philippines," writes about how the Filipino-American war had left the country in shambles, so teaching conditions were difficult, some places without any school houses. Salaries were often delayed, and were paid in Mexican pesos, which was constantly being devalued.

There were conflicts with the Catholic priests, who suspected that the mostly Protestant American teachers were out to proselytize young Filipinos, and with Filipino maestros accustomed to older teaching methods of making students read aloud and memorizing everything by rote. So, while one could argue that the American teachers were important tools in training young Filipinos to accept their new colonial master, they also brought in new teaching methods which encouraged Filipinos to be more critical and inquisitive.

More than a hundred of the Thomasites stayed on even after their assignments, some for the rest of their lives. These included A. V. H. Hartendorp, who founded the Philippine Magazine, Mary Fee who wrote the book "An American Woman's Impression of the Philippines" (reprinted some years back by GCF Books), and Austin Craig who became an authority on Rizal. Some of those who stayed married locally and raised their families here.

If some of these Thomasites had lived on to the 21st century, it would have been interesting to get their thoughts about that experiment they launched a hundred years ago, an experiment to bring, as another poem dedicated to the Thomasites goes, "culture and truth" to the islands.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

LETTERS

Zero waste moves communities to action

IN HIS "As I See It" column last Aug 29, 2001, Neal H. Cruz wrote "zero waste is a pipe dream." We say: not exactly.

At first zero waste seems out of the question, particularly for a metropolis of 12 million people. How on earth could we eradicate the enormous waste produced by Metro Manila estimated at 5,350 metric tons daily (1998 MMDA Waste Amount and Composition Survey)?

Happily, zero waste is not something that we need to concoct from nothing. Nature itself is our original and enduring model for zero waste. There are many successful models, in the Philippines and abroad, that we can study and possibly replicate on a national scale to address the waste crisis.

Zero waste is a vision no different from campaign targets believed to be "unrealistic" like clean air, smoke-free, renewable energy, nuclear-free. Critics dismissed these goals as "unattainable" slogans at the beginning, but these goals have since proven their usefulness by dramatically changing the way humans think and live. Perhaps it is important not to get fixated on the "zero." Instead of taking it literally, we should rather look at zero waste as a goal that stresses waste reduction ahead of waste disposal. Indeed no system is 100-percent efficient, but experiences in many places prove that citizens can get significantly close in reducing the waste stream. The Waste Reduction Record-Setters Project of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for instance, documents exceptional waste reduction programs in certain communities in the United States. For example, Bergen County in New Jersey with a population 825,380 in 1995 achieved 54 percent municipal solid waste reduction (49 percent reduction in household waste and 63 percent for institutional/commercial waste). We in the Philippines can definitely learn from Bergen and other triumphant communities that were able to cut their waste stream in half. Please see the EPA report for details (website: www.epa.gov/osw: reference: EPA-530-R-99-013).

Canberra and Toronto have adopted zero waste by 2010. In the United States, Boulder and Seattle as well as Del Norte and Santa Cruz counties have adopted zero-waste plans. In New Zealand, 27 of the country's 74 local authorities have set targets of zero waste between 2015-2020. There are more then enough success stories that give zero waste, no matter how ambitious it might sound, a popular appeal that moves communities into action.

The Philippine government should therefore waste no time in taking a lead role in developing a zero-waste policy and program. It must engage the whole nation in putting a stop to the existing "take, make and waste" mindset of our society. "But of course all that is hard work," as Neal Cruz would put it.—**MANNY C. CALONZO, Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, Unit 320, Eagle Court Condominium, 26 Matalino St., Quezon City**

Acid-throwing victim seeks help

MY name is Ma. Roberta Z. Sandejas. I am 21, and I suffered massive physical injuries after concentrated acid was thrown at me early last year.

I was admitted to the Makati Medical Center where I underwent a series of surgical procedures to try to reconstruct my face and to save my vision. Despite all the efforts, however, doctors could not restore my eyesight. The MMC's department of plastic surgery has also exhausted its resources and is now unable to offer me any more alternatives at this point.

I am still recovering from severe burns on my face and different parts of my body. My ears, nose, mouth, throat, esophagus, pharynx and arms also sustained extensive damage. Thus, I am not able to function as well as I used to.

I was a BS Finance student at De La Salle University and used to be an active member of the women's football team. I am not giving up on life. With all I've got within me, I want to be able to move on and be productive again.

I have been in touch with Dr. Robert Spence, chief of the department of plastic surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. He has been kind enough to offer to try to do more reconstructive procedures on me. He will also refer me to the Wilmer Eye Institute in the same hospital so that I may be examined and assessed as to whether anything else can be done to restore my vision.

The surgeons' fees have been offered for free. However, the hospital expenses for my treatment, which is estimated to cost from $25,000 to $30,000 will not be covered by the Johns Hopkins Hospital. My previous hospitalization has drained our resources. In fact, we still have some unpaid bills with the MMC.

My family and I would want to have the benefit of the best that medicine can offer in order to function as well as I can possibly do given the circumstances. A trip to the Johns Hopkins Hospital will give me this chance. This is why we wish to solicit your help in identifying foundations or individuals who may be willing to donate any amount to help defray the cost of my treatment abroad.—**MA. ROBERTA Z. SANDEJAS, 1 Copenhagen St., BF Homes, Parañaque City**

Fresh as the morning dew

AMID the overdose of gloomy news on wrongdoing and betrayal of public trust came one bit of news that seemed as fresh as the morning dew. This was the revelation of Speaker Jose de Venecia that the United States government is holding about P9 billion (the equivalent of $182 million) it had collected as proceeds from coconut excise tax way back during the Commonwealth regime.

De Venecia, who never seems to run out of startling ideas, made this revelation in a speech at the 15th Coconut Week celebration and urged the government to exhaust all political and diplomatic effort to secure the release of the money. The House leader, who obviously had done some sleuthing, did not reveal how the hidden money was uncovered and why there was no attempt by previous administrations to recover the amount.

Reports say that the excise tax of three cents per pound was imposed on imported copra as part of a US plan to help develop the Philippines, which was then a colony of the United States. The amount, which should be enough to fund the anti-poverty programs of the Macapagal administration, is at present supposedly deposited in trust with the US government through the Federal Reserve and has since earned enormous interest over the years.

Now, the caveat on the attempt to regain the money: diplomatic hard ball where every effort we make will be met by countermoves of equal vehemence. The Americans will fight tooth and nail if we lay claim to such a huge amount which is now presumably in the dustbin of history. But they are also fair, and if we try hard enough to convince of the justness of our cause and make them see it our way, they will relent and give it to us as a matter of simple justice.

De Venecia has vowed to initiate talks with his counterpart in the US Congress. He is widely known for his diplomatic skills and persuasiveness. That is a good start. But what is important is that at the end of the day he brings home the bacon.—**GIOVANI SOLIMAN, 21 Lilac St., West Fairview, Quezon City**

Internet as tool against corruption

THE MANOR Hotel fire which killed more than 70 people has put the Quezon City government and Congress in a strong reformist mood to weed out corruption in the offices that issue municipal permits.

One of the best things that Quezon City as well as other municipalities can do is adopt Seoul's Online Procedures Enhancement (OPEN) system. Congress can pitch in with a law mandating the adoption of the system. OPEN, which was launched on April 15, 1999, is an online system intended to prevent corruption by allowing citizens to monitor administrative procedures through the Internet.

Using the system, Seoul City staff in charge of processing and approving permits are obliged to file their reports in real time, and post it on the Internet to allow access by citizens at all times.

The city and the United Nations, in an August anti-corruption conference in Seoul, have agreed to share the OPEN system with the world through joint symposia and production of manuals.—**FRANKIE LLAGUNO, ADB Avenue corner Garnet Road, Pasig City**

Not at UP College of Fine Arts

PLEASE be informed that the UP College of Fine Arts is not connected in any way to the raffle of artworks to help fund the NVM Gonzales Short Story Awards as reported by Neal H. Cruz in his column last Aug. 31.

Our operations have been unnecessarily disrupted by a deluge of telephone inquiries regarding the matter.—**VIRGINIA B. DANDAN, dean, College of Fine Arts, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City**

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DENR probe import of banned ozone 'killers'

BY C. BALANA

THE PHILIPPINES imported P100 million worth of ozone-depleting chemicals or 900 metric tons more than its quota in 2000 despite an international ban, prompting the international community to protest.

This was revealed yesterday by Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez during a press conference as he ordered an immediate inquiry to punish those who were responsible for this irregularity.

According to Alvarez, anomalous permits allowing the importation of these ozone-depleting substances (ODS), particularly chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) was approved by the previous administration of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer signed by the Philippines bans the use the ODS.

Alvarez said he already ordered a crackdown on the alleged irregularities on the sale of ODS.

He said his sources in the manufacturing industry said that close allies of former President Joseph Estrada benefited from the deals.

"This is not only highly unethical but downright immoral and criminal, setting us 10 years back to the time when we have never started any phase-out of ODS such as CFCs," Alvarez declared.

"We will file criminal and administrative charges against officials involved in this sham and we will not hesitate to remove them from service," he said.

Alvarez was the author of a Senate resolution ratifying the Montreal convention when he was still chair of the Senate committee on environment in 1991.

At that time, the Philippines became one of the first 30 countries to sign the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer in Canada.

The Philippines was even awarded an Ozone Project Trust Fund Grant Agreement in 1994 by the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, United Nations Environmental Program and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization amounting to $7.42 million.

The fund, which has already been accessed by several private firms in the country for investment projects, is intended as the financial mechanism of the Montreal Protocol which enables developing countries with low ODS consumption to meet the increment cost of adopting the control measure for the protocol.

DENR's Administrative Order (DAO) No. 2000-18 on Chemical Control Order for Ozone Depleting Substances established a phase-out schedule on CFC imports, with gradual reduction each year from 1999 until 2010.

Lecture on old Filipino writings set

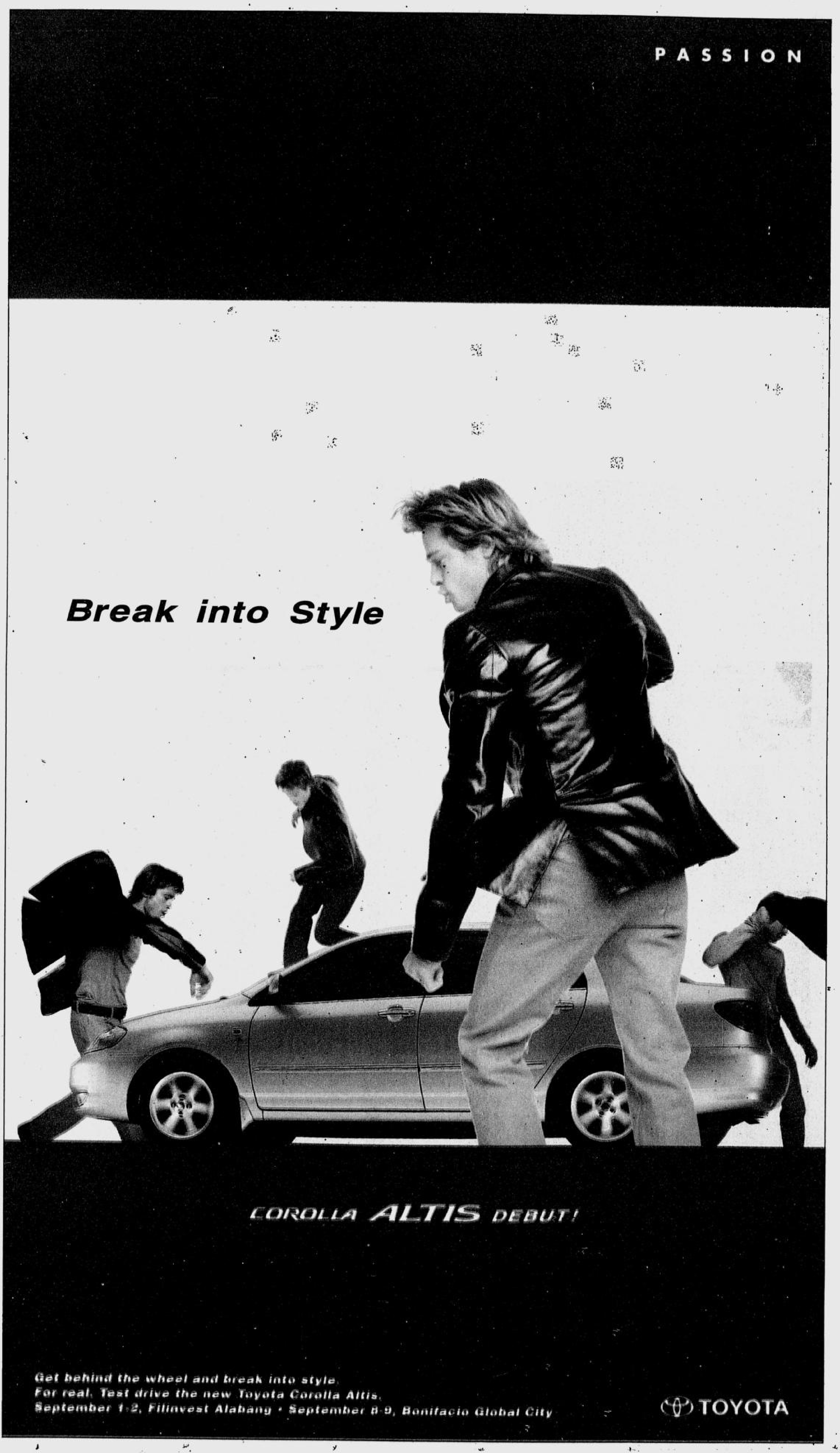
DR. Aurora Roxas Lim, professor of art history and former director of the UP Asian Center, will deliver a talk on "Ancient Filipino Writing" at the National Museum at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The lecture will focus specifically on the Laguna Copperplate Inscription, a text found on a piece of copperplate which had been salvaged during dredging activities in Laguna province.

Lim was the moderator at a recent forum at the University of the Philippines in which paleographers and other experts on ancient Philippine writing assessed findings and exchanged ideas on the inscription.

The talk is part of a lecture series sponsored by the National Museum, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines at the Tambunting-Villonco Hall of the Museum of the Filipino People (former Finance Bldg.) at Rizal Park.

Registration starts at 9 and includes a free tour of the museum. Call Jing Pascual at 813-0771 for more information.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LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Race meet searches for compromise

DURBAN, South Africa—Diplomats resume their search on Monday for a deal to prevent a United Nations racism conference being derailed by sharp divisions over Middle East violence and reparations for the slave trade.

The UN meeting enters its fourth day seeking a way to win over the United States which has objected strongly to a draft declaration that brands its ally Israel as a racist state.

Demands by African states for an outright apology and reparations by former slave-trading countries for 400 years of human trafficking has been resisted by Washington and also European states who fear a rash of possible litigation.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who flew out of the South African port city on Saturday, has warned the whole event could fail unless these rows are resolved.

Norway, which brokered the 1993 Oslo peace accord between the Palestinians and Israel, has been asked in Durban to bridge Arab and Islamic demands to condemn Israel.

Current conference draft texts refer to Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the occupied territories as "a new apartheid" and a "crime against humanity."

Former African colonial power Belgium has led attempts to overcome sharp differences between African states and the developed world over reparations for the ills of slavery.

Diplomatic sources said Norway and Belgium would report back on their progress on Monday to the conference, which organizers hope will prove a landmark in the international struggle against discrimination.

Rep. Tom Lantos, the ranking Democratic Party member on the US House of Representatives' International Relations Committee, said a Norwegian-brokered compromise had a reference to the Palestinian issue but was acceptable to Washington.

Lantos, who is in Durban accompanying the US delegation at the conference, gave no details of the wording but warned that it was as far as the United States was prepared to go.

Lantos, who said he had spoken by telephone to US Secretary of State Colin Powell, warned that if Arab or other states attempted to change the language of the Norwegian proposal it could trigger a US walkout.

"We have made an enormous concession by agreeing to the Norwegian language as it is," said Lantos. "We will not go one step beyond this."

Washington has cut its representation at Durban to relatively junior level in protest at what it says is anti-Israeli bias.

Despite differences South African President Thabo Mbeki, who is hosting the eight-day gathering of 153 countries, expressed confidence the problems would be resolved.

"I am convinced myself that we will find a common and acceptable position with regard to those issues," he told Reuters in an interview on Sunday.

Pressure to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has increased with the violence in and around the occupied territories. Some 700 people, most of them Palestinians, have died in the past 11 months since the peace process collapsed. *Reuters*

Pyongyang proposes new talks with Seoul

SEOUL—North Korea yesterday made an official proposal for talks with the rival South, amidst mounting skepticism over the motives for the surprise move.

An official message was passed through the Panmunjom truce village on the Korean border following Sunday's offer made by Pyongyang's state media to end a six-month-old freeze on contacts.

"We got a telephone message through Panmunjom and we consider that North Korea's official proposal," said a South Korean government official in charge of liaison contacts at the village in the de-militarized zone.

Panmunjom has been the only permitted point for exchanges between the two sides since the 1950-53 Korean War. After the boost given by last year's summit between their leaders, contacts came to a halt in March.

The North's offer came just ahead of a vote of confidence Monday in the South Korean national assembly on Unification Minister Lim Dong-won, who is closely associated with the policy of engaging with Pyongyang.

The main opposition party which laid the motion and many analysts believe the North is trying to influence the vote.

Even the Seoul government is wary of the reasons for the offer by the communist government, the South's Yonhap national news agency said.

The government has officially welcomed the North's overture, but Lim told reporters "the proposal was expected but we need more discussions on when and how the talks should start." *AFP*

BEFORE GUNS AND MISSILES

REUTERS

Combatants representing Royalists (left) and Roundheads, or parliamentarians, re-enact the English Civil War's final battle of Worcester on the 350th anniversary of the event Sept. 2. The 1651 battle marked the defeat of Royalist forces under Charles II by the pro-parliamentary New Model Army headed by Oliver Cromwell. Charles II thereafter fled to France and Cromwell gained control of England.

Cops: Drowsy driver caused train collision

JAKARTA—A drowsy train driver and his assistant were to blame for a rail crash on Indonesia's Java island which killed 42 people, police said yesterday.

"Police found evidence of negligence or human error committed by Suwanto (the driver) and Sudarto," West Java police chief, Inspector General Sudirman Ail, was quoted by the state news agency Antara as saying.

He quoted witnesses as saying that at one point in the journey, the two men had "dozed off and even fell asleep" at the controls.

"They didn't pay attention to signals," Ail added.

Both men were killed, along with 40 others, when the Empu Jaya passenger train rammed into a locomotive as it was trying to switch tracks at the station in the city of Cirebon early Sunday.

Of those injured, 25 were still in hospital Monday.

A spokesperson for the state-owned railway company, PT Kereta Api said the transport ministry would set up a team to investigate the crash.

"The team will find out the cause of the accident and recommend what sort of action should be taken," said Suhartono, a spokesperson for PT Kereta Api in Cirebon.

Suhartono said the track had been cleared of wreckage Sunday night and the line had reopened.

The railway company's main spokesperson Gatot Wibowo has also blamed human error for the smash.

"It looks like the results of human error . . . the Empu Jaya ignored signals and entered the station without reducing speed," Wibowo told a radio station on Sunday.

Transport Minister Agum Gumelar, who inspected the scene and visited the injured, said Sunday that "up until now, based on reports and from checks on the field, it looks like this is the result of human error."

Parliament's deputy speaker Andi Mappaseng Fatwa urged officials in charge of transport to take responsibility for the accident by resigning. *AFP*

Pioneering heart surgeon Christiaan Barnard, 78

NICOSIA—Christiaan Barnard, the pioneering South African surgeon who made medical history by performing the world's first heart transplant, died in Cyprus on Sunday at the age of 78.

The colorful Barnard, who became a worldwide celebrity after the 1967 operation and had an outsized ego to match, died by his hotel pool in the coastal resort town of Paphos—while reading one of his own books.

Hospital sources said the cause of death had not yet been determined, while medical sources confirmed that an autopsy on Monday would be attended by a visiting physician from Austria, where Barnard lived for a time.

"We are all very deeply saddened to hear of Dr Barnard's passing," Cypriot Health Minister Frixos Savvides said.

Barnard, a regular holiday visitor to the Mediterranean island, was alone at the Coral Beach hotel and sunning himself by the pool when he lost consciousness on Sunday afternoon, a hotel manager said.

Another guest, a Cypriot doctor, tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

Doctor Neophytos Papageorgiou, a heart specialist, said he rushed to the pool after people started shouting that someone had fallen ill.

"When I reached the sun bed where he was, he was on his side and he wasn't breathing. I tried to revive him with other members of staff but failed," Papageorgiou told reporters.

Barnard was pronounced dead at 1:15 p.m. (7:15 p.m. in Manila), hospital officials said.

"He was very popular with the staff and a very decent man," the Coral Beach manager said, adding that Barnard had not complained to staff in recent days about his health. He was due to go home next Sunday.

Hotel sources confirmed that Barnard, who boasted of sexual conquests including actress Gina Lollobrigida in his autobiography and fathered six children with three wives, was staying alone during his holiday.

Last year he divorced his last wife, former model Karin who was only two years old when he performed the groundbreaking 1967 transplant.

Barnard shot to overnight fame on Dec. 3, 1967, when he and a team of doctors performed the first human-to-human heart transplant at Groote Schuur hospital in Cape Town.

The heart of Denise Darvall, 25, who was killed in a car accident, was transplanted to 52-year-old grocer Louis Washkansky.

Although Washkansky died 18 days later, the operation gave new hope to heart patients, while Barnard's winning smile and handsome looks graced magazine covers around the world.

"On Saturday," he said in a 1997 interview, "I was a surgeon in South Africa. On Monday I was world renowned." He once said the operation made him as well-known as another famous South African, former president Nelson Mandela.

Mandela himself and other luminaries expressed sorrow at Barnard's passing.

"His death is a great loss to the country after all the contributions he made. He was also very vocal against apartheid," Mandela told reporters at his Johannesburg home, where he was meeting Cuban President Fidel Castro.

"Doctor Barnard will remain the symbol of audacious modern medicine, able to surpass accepted ideas to bring solutions to victims of suffering and illness," French President Jacques Chirac said.

Sir Terence English, former president of Britain's Royal College of Surgeons, said Barnard's work had made him one of the world's most famous men. *AFP*

BARNARD

Iraq opens door to US, UK diggers

BAGHDAD—Iraq is ready to play host to US and British archeology teams despite the 11-year freeze in relations with both countries' governments, the top Iraqi archeology official said yesterday.

"The department of archeology and heritage has no objections to US and British archeology teams coming here," said department head Jaber Khalil Ibrahim, quoted by the Nabdh al-Shabab weekly.

Ibrahim said that teams from France, Germany and Italy were due to arrive in Iraq shortly for excavations in the north of the country where, he explained, certain sites were threatened by erosion.

Western archeological teams were allowed back into Iraq only last month after an absence of 11 years.

Iraq contains more than 10,000 archeological sites, many in the northern province of Kurdistan, and most of which have not yet been uncovered, according to official statistics.

Before the embargo imposed on Iraq in August 1990 for invading Kuwait, Iraq played host to numerous foreign archeological expeditions each year. *AFP*

4 bombs explode in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—Four bombs exploded in Jerusalem early Monday—two of them virtually at the same time during morning rush hour—and three people were lightly hurt, police and witnesses said.

Jerusalem Police Chief Mickey Levy said he believed the bombs, which went off in three areas of the city, were planted by the same squad of Palestinian militants.

Israel Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, meanwhile, said a time and place for truce talks with the Palestinians have not yet been set.

Speaking on Israel radio Monday, Peres did not rule out holding talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at a conference in Italy this week to which both have been invited.

Asked whether a ceasefire could be achieved in such a meeting, Peres said: "That is my hope . . . I think he (Arafat) also needs it. The uprising is not yielding so much fruit. On the other hand, it is yielding more and more fatalities, unfortunately, and is causing great hardship, and where is it leading?"

Shortly after Peres was interviewed on the radio, two bombs exploded close to 8 a.m. One went off in a vehicle belonging to the Jerusalem municipality. The vehicle was parked in Gilo, a neighborhood built on land Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war and annexed to Jerusalem.

Two people were lightly hurt.

In the second blast, an apparent car bomb, injured one woman in the north Jerusalem neighborhood of French Hill, police said. *AP*

China to Japan: Face up to imperialist past

BEIJING—China yesterday urged Japan to face up to its past of imperialist aggression or risk never being able to reach genuine reconciliation, state media said.

In a stark warning issued one day after the 56th anniversary of Japan's official surrender in World War II, China said that only remembrance of historical tragedies can prevent them from happening again.

"Any act of denial or glossing over the history of Japan's militarist aggression . . . will certainly impede the genuine reconciliation between Japan and other Asian countries," an unnamed foreign ministry spokesperson said, according to the official Xinhua news agency.

"(It) will be resisted and strongly opposed by the people of all the victimized countries in Asia, including the people of Japan," the spokesperson said.

Japan signed a formal treaty on unconditional surrender on Sept. 2, 1945. China has picked Sept. 3 as the day of commemoration of its 1937-45 war with Japan.

China sees itself as the main victim of Japanese imperialism and claims 35 million casualties during the eight-year struggle.

"Only by engraving the bitter and painful history in the heart and drawing in-depth lessons from the past, can the historical tragedy be prevented from being replayed," the spokesperson said according to Xinhua.

Disagreements over how to deal with the past have helped plunge Sino-Japanese relations to a 30-year low.

The new Chinese ambassador to Japan, Wu Dawei, recently said bilateral ties were in their most difficult phase since relations were normalized in 1972.

China was enraged when Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited a war shrine in central Tokyo on Aug. 13 honoring those who have died in a century of conflicts, including convicted war criminals.

His visit further soured bilateral relations already strained by Tokyo's official approval of a history textbook accused by China and South Korea of whitewashing Japan's atrocities during World War II. *AFP*

Left, right lose old meanings in new CenAm

BY JOHN RICE

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—Suddenly, Managua has a skyline.

New hotels and shopping centers—with elevators, and even escalators!—have sprouted in a capital flattened by a 1972 earthquake and laid low by failed socialism. Arco gas stations, Pizza Huts and McDonald's golden arches rise from the gentle hills.

Once a live-fire franchise of the Cold War, Nicaragua and other Central American countries have embraced franchise capitalism.

Yet the image that still dominates Managua from a hilltop is a giant metallic silhouette of Augusto Sandino, Nicaragua's anti-American hero, from whom the left-wing Sandinista movement took its name.

And a decade after US President George Bush celebrated the Sandinistas' downfall, Bush's son and the current president, George W. Bush, may see their leader, Daniel Ortega, return to power in the November presidential election.

Politics throughout Central America remain divided by the fault line between civil war foes. The poverty and inequality that feed those conflicts still lurk beyond the gloss and glass of the new office buildings.

Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua are probably as closely tied to the United States as they ever have been. All three rely heavily on investments from the United States and on the dollars sent home by workers there.

Yet 10 years after the Soviet Union dissolved and global politics were upended, parties with openly socialist yearnings have a strong chance of winning elections in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

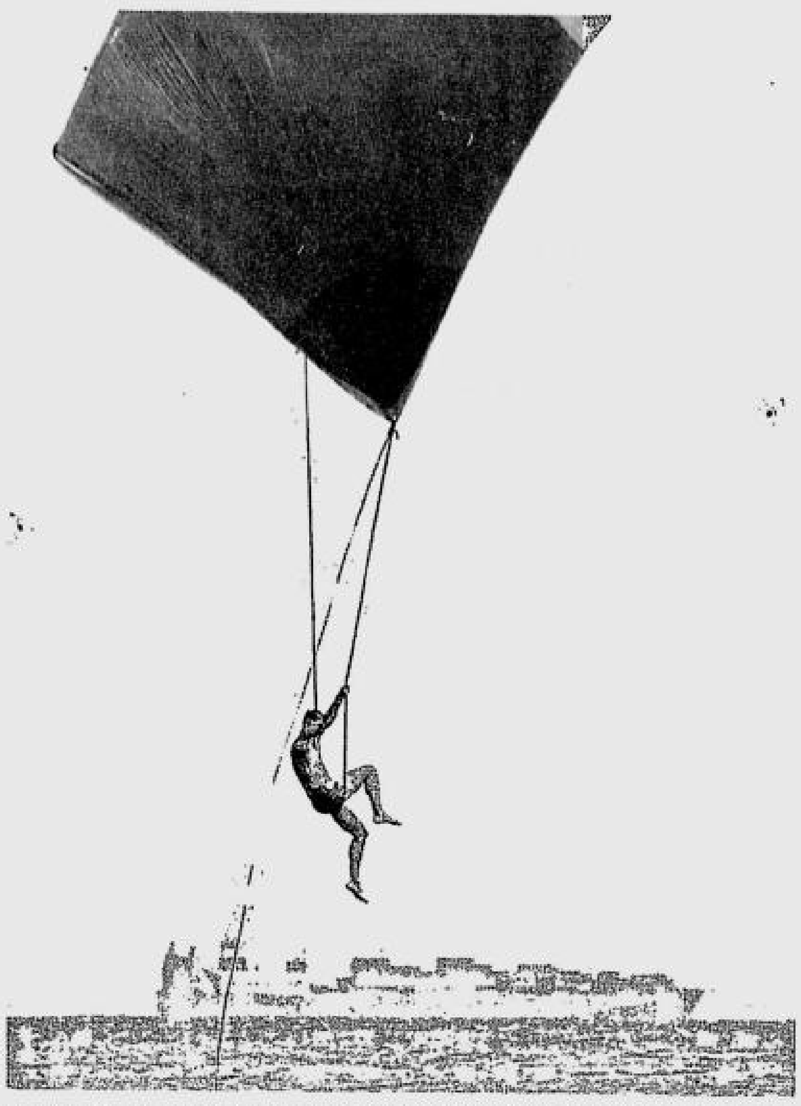
A few fragile years of peace and democracy have not yet brought prosperity nor warded off hunger.

Millions across Central America still struggle to stay alive in urban shantytowns or muddy, forgotten villages. Crime has replaced war as the cause of fear.

The region's greatest advance is that the struggles that claimed hundreds of thousands of lives now are waged in democratically elected congresses rather than on jungle battlegrounds.

In the 1980s, the region seemed to be descending into its own heart of darkness: whole villages exterminated, nuns and priests massacred, death squads roaming the streets, Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Romero shot to death as he said Mass.

Guatemala, whose war was the longest and bloodiest, has the longest way still to go. *AP*



A BOY splashes into the Indian Ocean on his yacht's spinnaker as the Norwegian freighter Tampa, where more than 400 refugees had been stranded for eight days, sits off the coast of Christmas Island in Australia Sept. 3. The refugees were transferred yesterday to an Australian Navy ship on the latest leg of their journey. REUTERS

Refugees begin voyage of hope aboard warship

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, Australia—Hundreds of refugees stranded for eight days on a freighter in the Indian Ocean were Monday transferring to an Australian Navy ship on the latest leg of a long voyage in search of a better life.

The 438 mainly Afghan asylum seekers began transferring from the Norwegian cargo ship the Tampa to the Australian troopship Manoora where conditions should be less cramped.

The move came after an Australian court lifted an injuction which had barred them from being moved as a rights group argued that they should be allowed to land on Australian territory.

The Manoora and the Tampa moved alongside each other on Monday about two nautical miles north of this Australian territory where the Tampa has been idling since picking up the refugees from a sinking boat on Aug. 26.

One of two local barges big enough to ferry 30 boat people and a small crew at a time, motored toward the Tampa and began transferring its passengers to the Manoora, Christmas Island harbor master Don O'Donnell said.

Australia has refused to allow the asylum seekers to land on its soil, and has brokered a deal for the refugees to be taken to New Zealand and the tiny Pacific island of Nauru via Papua New Guinea.

The transfer operation was expected to take up to six hours in two flat-top barges, but Prime Minister John Howard said the Manoora was likely to set sail for Paupa New Guinea later Monday on a voyage which will take six to 10 days.

The Tampa is expected to then head for Christmas Island bound for Singapore to complete its voyage after spending eight days off Christmas Island, 1,500 km west of the Australian mainland.

Under a plan drawn up by Canberra, Papua New Guinea will be a staging post from which 150 refugees will fly to New Zealand and the remainder to Nauru.

Those assessed in New Zealand as genuine refugees qualifying for asylum would be permitted to stay there while those qualifying in Nauru would be sent to other countries, including Australia.

Australia, which the court was told is spending $1.5 million a day on the military operation, will pay Nauru all expenses for accommodating the refugees and processing their claims.

"We've done this purely on a humanitarian level," Nauru president Rene Harris told an Australian radio station. "We didn't do it to get anything from it."

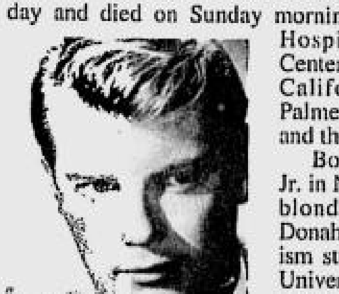
Rights group the Victorian Council for Civil Liberties has filed a suit against Canberra claiming the boatpeople were denied basic legal rights and calling for them to be allowed to enter Australia to have their claims processed in its domestic legal system.

The court initially ordered an injunction barring the refugees from being moved off the Tampa until the case had been decided.

But under the terms of an agreement reached late Sunday, the asylum seekers were allowed to be moved to the bigger, better-equipped warship and will only disembark in Papua New Guinea after the ruling. *AFP*

1950s heartthrob Troy Donahue, 65

LOS ANGELES—Troy Donahue, a heartthrob actor who climbed to stardom in the 1950s with his role in "A Summer Place," only to fade into obscurity later, has died, his publicist said on Sunday. He was 65.



DONAHUE

Donahue suffered a massive heart attack on Thursday and died on Sunday morning at Saint John's Hospital and Health Center in Santa Monica, California, said Bob Palmer, a family friend and the actor's publicist.

Born Merle Johnson Jr. in New York City, the blond, blue-eyed Donahue was a journalism student at Columbia University when he began his acting career.

His debut in the 1957 film "Man Afraid" was followed by another half-dozen films before Donahue signed with Warner Bros. and starred as Sandra Dee's young lover in "Summer Place" in 1959.

He soon became a teenage heartthrob, appearing in such films as "Parrish" (1961), "Rome Adventure" (1962) and "My Blood Runs Cold" (1964).

Around the same time, he also enjoyed success on the small screen, appearing on "Surfside 6" (1960-62) and "Hawaiian Eye" (1962-63).

His career floundered after his contract with Warner Bros. ended in 1966. He appeared in "The Godfather, Part II" in 1974, in the bit part of a playboy named Merle Johnson.

By the late 1980s, Donahue was appearing in mostly low-budget movies like "Bad Blood" (1989), "Assault of the Party Nerds" (1989) and "Cry-Baby" (1990).

He is survived by a son and a daughter and by his longtime companion and fiancée, Zheng Cao, an opera singer, Palmer said. *Reuters*

Sex-for-guns mess jars Indian Army

NEW DELHI—A scandal involving senior Indian Army commanders who were filmed with prostitutes in a sting exposing shady defense deals has left the military wondering what it can do to improve its image.

The exposé has highlighted fears that some officers could be easy prey for spies and a threat to national security.

Six officers are facing a court martial after journalists from the Indian website www.tehelka.com who were investigating defense deals used spy cameras to video-tape three of them candidly negotiating bribes to fix military purchase contracts.

The remaining three, including a major general and a colonel, were taped with prostitutes provided by Tehelka as part of its operation to expose a link between military commanders, arms merchants and crooked politicians.

Tehelka had already released parts of the tapes in March, showing politicians pocketing bribes, which led to the resignation of Defense minister George Fernandez.

The tapes showing the three men with the prostitutes were leaked to a newspaper last month, sparking national outrage.

Defense experts warn that India must install a screening system and offer higher wages and better training to keep its men in uniform out of trouble.

Former Indian Army chief Vishwanath Sharma said the military must restore the respect of combat troops for their officers.

"They will have to punished. The first action should be severe because what they did was a violation of officer-like conduct and character and conduct is paramount in the military business," the general said. *AFP*

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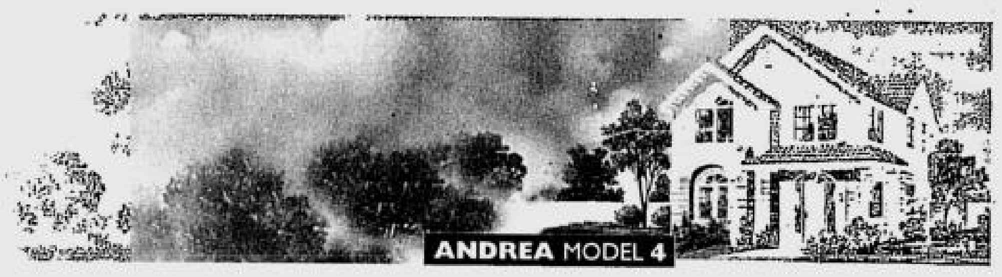

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	Hi 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	Hi 29° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 33° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly cloudy with rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/09/4/01

ROUNDUP

More troops to Midsayap

COTABATO CITY—Army troopers were deployed in at least four villages of Midsayap in North Cotabato following the mass exodus of 730 families due to recent killings and burning of some 30 houses by armed supporters of two feuding clans, said Midsayap Vice Mayor Manuel Rabara. The evacuees are residents of Barangays Olandang, Kadigasan, Damatulan and Kudarangan, he said. He identified the warring families as those of Said Pakiladatu and Mosali Yusop. Maj. Julieto Ando, Army spokesperson of the 6th Infantry Division, said Commander Asrap of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Commander Tayuan of the Moro National Liberation Front were involved in the feud. He said the animosity was caused by the killing of Olandang barangay chair Mosali Yusop.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

'Tawas' not shabu seized?

DAVAO CITY—Most of the shabu confiscated from three suspects arrested during a raid in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur last week could be "tawas (alum)," police sources said. The sources told the INQUIRER that only 17 grams of the 535 grams of the crystalline substance submitted for testing at the police crime laboratory in Ecoland Subdivision here were shabu. Supt. Ernesto Muescan, chief of the crime lab declined to confirm the report, saying he would issue an official pronouncement when the testing is over. Johnny Jul, one of the arrested suspects, earlier claimed that the confiscated item from them was only alum, which would be used as a preservative to ferment fish.

Anthony A. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Health workers lauded

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Health secretary Manuel Dayrit vowed more support for the 3,000 barangay health workers (BHWs) in Misamis Oriental whom he lauded for being in the frontline of the general health welfare of the people. Dayrit said the government managed to deliver basic health services needed in the villages because of the BHWs. Mostly trained *hilots*, the BHWs receive honoraria from their respective local governments. Dayrit said the health department is looking at the possibility of giving additional benefits to the BHWs.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Illegal Indonesians in Davao

DIGOS CITY—Police in Davao del Sur have been alerted on the reported rampant entry of illegal migrants, particularly Indonesians, through the province's coastlines. Senior Supt. Guillermo Lara, provincial police chief, also ordered policemen to make sure tourists carry proper entry documents. Lara said reports reaching his office indicated that undocumented aliens, mostly from Indonesia entered the country through Sta. Maria, Malita, Don Marcelino, Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani towns, which are near the Indonesian border. The reported exodus of Indonesians here was allegedly caused by recent unrest in the Aceh province.

Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Motorcycle lost

DUMAGUETE CITY—A program director of radio station dyMY Yes FM lost his Yamaha DT 125 motorcycle to still unknown suspects on Saturday. Des Tilos said he left his motorcycle at the parking lot of the Rural Bank of Subangdaku on San Jose Street before reporting for work. He said he last saw his motorcycle about 11:30 a.m. when he looked at the parking lot from his office on the 3rd floor of the Dumaguete Rural Bank building. "When I went down at noon, it was gone," Tilos said.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

4 hurt in road mishap

DUMAGUETE CITY—Four persons were injured on Sunday after the motorcycle they were riding rammed into a steel gate in Barangay Piapi in this city. Injured were Johanie Vicher, 18, and her sisters Judy Mae, 6 and Jenalyn, 16; and Jazz Maglinte, 16. Maglinte told police they were riding on a motorcycle when Johanie received a message on her cell phone. Since she was driving the motorcycle, she asked Maglinte to read the message. Maglinte said she was reading the message when two men on a motorcycle suddenly snatched the cell phone from her hand. Johanie decided to give chase but she lost control of the motorcycle, causing it to ram into the steel gate.

Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau

Church statement condemns GMOs, urges tests junked

ILAGAN, Isabela—The Catholic bishop and priests in 35 towns and two cities in Isabela have led a province-wide condemnation of Bt-corn (*Bacillus thuringiensis*) field testing in Isabela.

In a pastoral letter read in parishes in the province, Bishop Sergio Utleg of the Diocese of Ilagan and the Isabela clergy have urged residents to oppose fiel2d testing activities in at least 11 villages in 10 towns in the province.

They said the genetically modified organism-laced corn seeds are noxious and are exposing people to risks of cancer and other diseases.

"*Ito ay isang malinaw na epekto ug globalisasyon. Pero ganito man ang nangyayari hindi tayo patitinag. Nananatili ang ating pagtutol sa* Bt-corn. *Pinaniniwalaan namin ang mga dalubhasa galing sa* UP *na ang* Bt-corn *ay nagdudulot ng pagkalason* (This is a clear effect of globalization. However, we should not stop our vigilance. We will continue to oppose the Bt-corn testing. We believe the statements of the University of the Philippines experts that the Bt-corn is poisonous)," Utleg said in a statement read in the parishes.

The bishop was referring to the statements of Prof. Romeo Quijano and Dr. Charito Medina, both of the University of the Philippines, who called for the junking of the field testing project due to health and environment risks.

Utleg called on local leaders to stop the project, junk other genetically modified organism-laced crops and fight the dominance of corporations pushing for the GMO-enhanced products.

The INQUIRER learned that Monsanto Philippines, the project initiator, has already planted Bt-corn at Barangay Villaluna in Cauayan City and at Barangay Carulay in Echague town although the field test has yet to be approved by the Isabela provincial board.

Most residents also complained that no public hearings were held before the implementation of the experiments on Bt-corn.

Monsanto would let loose Yieldgard corn seeds injected with organisms called *Bacillus thuringiensis* in 32 towns in the country.

The project aims to confirm the resistance of Yieldgard against the Asiatic corn borer, evaluate the corn's economic value and compare grain quality.

The provincial board suggested that the issue be tossed back for decision to the municipal councils of the towns identified as field testing areas.

The proposed field testing areas are Carulay in Echague; Alinguigan and San Felipe in Ilagan; Sili in Aurora; Villaluna in Cauayan City; Diarao in Jones; Masaya Sur in San Agustin; Malamag West in Tumauini; Napaccu Pequeño in Reina Mercedes; Yeban Sur in Benito Soliven; and Garita in Cabagan.

Opposition to GMOs is also strong in Mindanao areas, where the same firm conducts field testing of Bt-corn. *Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

RESTING PLACE

BUTCH ENERIO

Fr. Rufus Halley's brothers carry the Irish priest's remains to a grave in Cagayan de Oro City during Halley's burial Sept. 2. They leave behind their brother's body but bring with them memories, both painful and happy, of the slain priest.

American faces 37 more counts of child rape

BACOLOD CITY—Former American serviceman Victor Pearson, who is detained for allegedly raping a 15-year-old girl, is in for more trouble.

Thirty-seven more counts of rape were filed yesterday against him before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court in Ilog town for repeatedly molesting three minors.

This brought to 47 the total number of rape cases filed against Pearson before the MCTC in Ilog, some 109 kilometers southwest of here.

A 15-year-old girl earlier filed 10 counts of rape against Pearson before the Ilog MCTC.

Lawyer Rowena Guanzon, who was tapped by the Department of Social Welfare and Development to act as private prosecutor, filed the additional charges against Pearson on behalf of the three minors.

Two of the complainants are 15 years old while one is 13.

Deception

All claimed that Pearson repeatedly raped them while they were working for him at his residence in Barangay Andolawan, Ilog.

Three more minors are set to file rape charges against Pearson this week.

Social Welfare Specialist Rosario Silla said the DSWD has in its custody seven girls, all minors, who claimed to have been raped by Pearson.

These seven included the four minors who filed charges against the American. "We will keep them in our custody until the trial is over," Silla said,

In her affidavit, Mila (not real name), 15, said Pearson raped her 22 times since she was recruited to work for the American on Jan. 29.

Her affidavit did not specify the nature of her work except that Pearson promised to pay her P250 a week.

The first rape allegedly occurred on Jan. 30 inside Pearson's room. When she begged Pearson to stop, Pearson reportedly told Mila that all girls had to pass through him.

Threats

He also allegedly threatened to kill her and her family if she resisted. Mila said Pearson videotaped the rape.

Cynthia (not her real name), also 15, said Pearson raped her twice in June.

In her affidavit, Cynthia said Pearson had threatened to kill her if she would not have sex with him. She added Pearson gave her P50 for the two days in which he forced himself on her.

Cynthia said she was able to get away from Pearson because her mother came to his house to get her.

Another alleged victim, Juana, (not her real name), 13, said Pearson raped her 13 times from May to August this year.

Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Poll body orders Leyte solon unseated

ORMOC CITY—The Commission on Elections en banc has ordered Leyte Rep. Maria Victoria Locsin of the fourth district to vacate her congressional seat in favor of her lone rival.

The poll body instead directed the Provincial Board of Canvassers to reconvene and proclaim former Ormoc City Mayor Eufrocino Codilla Sr. as the winning candidate for the fourth district's congressional race.

In a vote of 4-3, the Comelec reversed the June 14 decision of its second division that disqualified Codilla and ordered the PBC to proclaim as winner the candidate who obtained the highest number of votes, except Codilla.

In a 108-page decision dated Aug. 29, the Comelec said the proclamation of Locsin violated existing election laws and established jurisprudence,

Those who voted to reverse Codilla's disqualification and annul Locsin's proclamation were Comelec chair Resurreccion Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr. and Ralph Lantion.

The earlier resolution of the Second Division composed Comelec Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Mehol Sedain and Rufino Javier, was considered as "minority decision."

Locsin (Nationalist People's Coalition), who was trailing by over 17,000 votes behind Codilla (Lakas-NUCD), was proclaimed winner after the Second Division disqualified Codilla for "indirect solicitation of votes" during the campaign period.

The Second Division had deemed "stray and invalid" the votes which Codilla garnered during the May 14 elections.

The ruling was based on a petition for disqualification filed against Codilla by Josephine de la Cruz, a resident of Barangay Riverside, Kananga town.

She accused Codilla of using government vehicles in hauling and distributing extracted sand and gravel to woo votes in some villages in the towns of Matag-ob and Kananga, which belong to the fourth congressional district, during the campaign period.

A certain Miguel Pandas, said to be a resident of Kananga town, also claimed that a sand and gravel distributor in his town, using a vehicle with a government-issued plate number, told them to vote for Codilla because the sand and gravel were donated by Codilla.

But the Comelec en banc reversed the decision of the Second Division on the ground that the charges of De la Cruz were not substantiated.

Borra, in his dissenting opinion, said there was no "convincing evidence," which would support Codilla's disqualification.

He cited the Comelec Rules of Procedure, which states that "he alleges a fact (that) has the burden of (being proven) and mere allegation is not evidence."

Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau

PNP office admits some cops use drugs

DAVAO CITY—The Philippine National Police in Southern Mindanao admitted that it is not free from suspicion that some police officers are into illegal drugs.

Records of the PNP regional office here show that some of its personnel were allegedly into drugs. Last year, the PNP regional office has recorded a total of 130 police officers suspected to be either into drug pushing and use or were providing protection to the drug trade.

But Supt. Hilario Cain, deputy regional chief for operations, said out of the 130 cases, only 11 policemen were proven to have used drugs.

"It is difficult to prove that they were into pushing and protection, for lack of evidence. So we can only pin them down on using drugs," Cain said.

Cain said one of the accused from Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte, was found to be using drugs because he was reportedly "utilized" in a drug operation.

On the other hand, the Regional Narcotics Group (RNG) said there are active personnel in the PNP who are involved in the illegal drugs trade, based on a summary of information received from the intelligence community.

But RNG chief, Supt. Efren Alcuizar, said the summary of information has yet to be confirmed.

Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Homes for abandoned RP kids sought

BY TONETTE OREJAS
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—There has been a dearth of adoptive families for about 7,000 Filipino children being cared for in welfare institutions, according to President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We must unite all our efforts to give our children and all the children in the world a rightful home of their own," the President told some 200 foreign and local participants to the 6th Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services at the Holiday Inn here.

Ms Macapagal called the three-day consultation, the fourth to be held in the Philippines by the Inter-Country Adoption Board (Icab), an "honorable undertaking."

The Icab, she said, has helped cause a shift in the objectives of adopting children. She noted that from providing the needs of childless couples for children, the primary consideration now of adoption has been on the promotion of the welfare of the adoptive child.

The Icab, created after The Hague convention on inter-country adoption was adopted, seeks to safeguard children from abduction, sale and trafficking.

While most adoption cases facilitated by the Icab had been successful, Ms Macapagal said "much remains to be done."

At least 1,584 Filipino children have been placed for foreign adoption since 1995. Of these, 717 were boys while 867 were girls, according to reports from the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

The DSWD, an Icab member, said American couples comprised the biggest number of adoptive families, followed by couples from Europe, Canada and Asia.

Ms Macapagal, a former social welfare secretary, said poverty, which causes many parents to abandon or give up their children for adoption, must be addressed.

She said families would have to value adoption as a means to help destitute children.

Government, she said, should stop simulated births or the faking of birth certificates to cover up illegal adoption. The President said the sale of children, a crime in the Philippines, must be stopped.

Much work, she added, remains to be done in the regulation of and education on adoption.

The President turned poetic and biblical to stress to government workers and child welfare advocates "not to close our doors to children."

Reciting a phrase from the Roman poet Cicero, she said: "Of all nature's gifts to our human race, children are the sweetest."

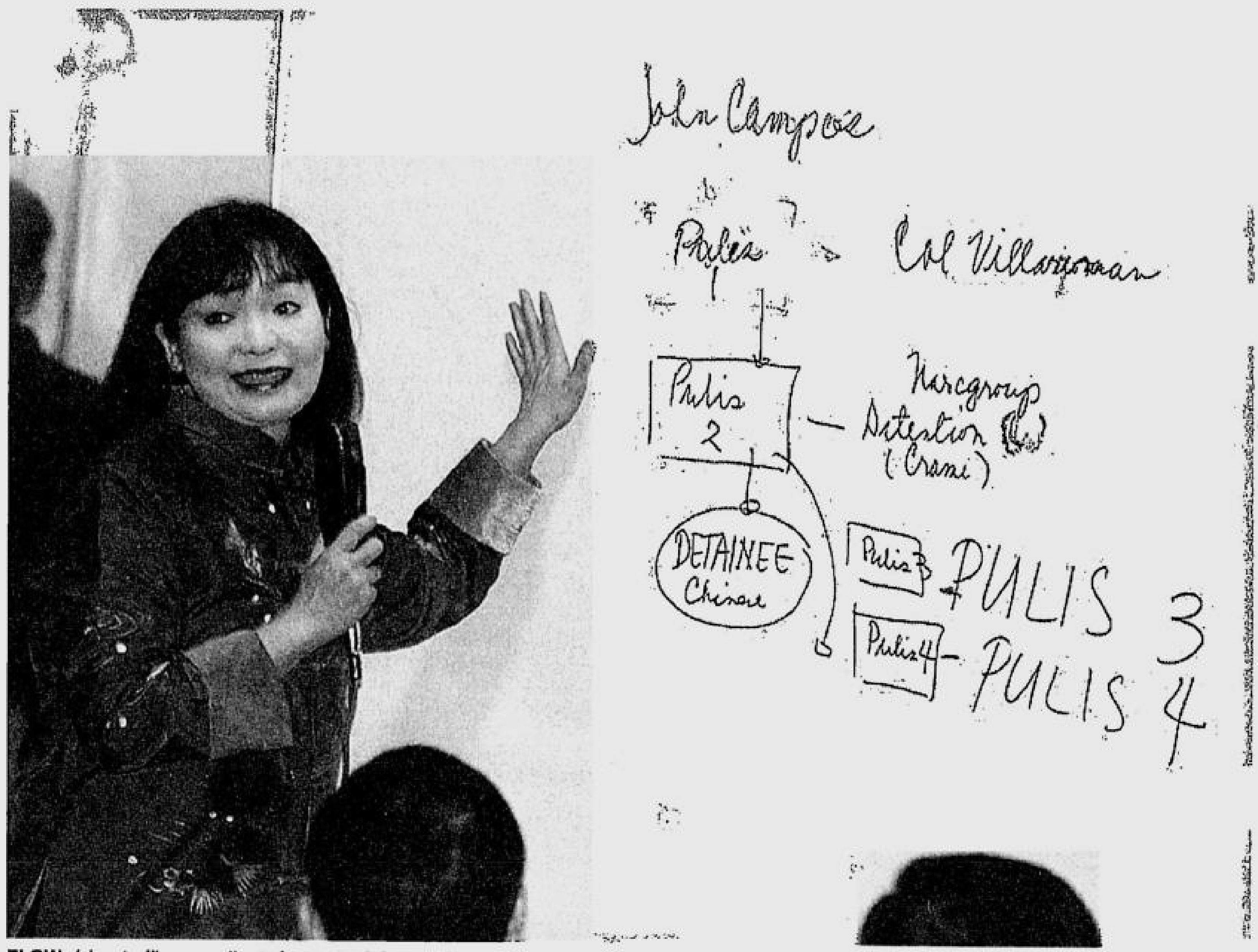
Turning to the Bible that she is known to read daily before work, the President said: "Even our Lord Jesus Christ told his disciples… Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of God belongs to such of age."

She said there "should not be any reason for anyone to cause these innocent and lovable members of our race any pain and sorrow."

"Sadly though this is not the situation in the real world. The sad plight of the many children should make many of us ashamed of ourselves either because of indifference or other reasons."

Children, she said, are the country's most valuable resource. Despite the technological advances in the world, abandoned children should be given priority and the basic need of special care and protection, she said.

Mary Ong: You name it, they did it



FLOW of drug traffic, according to former PAOCTF agent Mary Ong at the resumption of the Senate hearings on the allegations of the involvement of Senator Lacson in drug-trafficking.

JESS YUSON

(From page A1)

so far failed to provide a "direct link" between him and the alleged illegal drug network.

"It's not only that there's no direct evidence, there's no evidence to link me to the drug trade," Lacson told Senate reporters after the hearing.

According to him, what Ong, a witness for the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (Isafp), has so far revealed is "all hearsay."

"It's always like that, she overheard (somebody else). I don't see any probative value in her statements," he said.

Lacson also denied talking to her over the phone, adding, "if for sake of argument we talked . . . that does not indicate anything, evidence-wise."

The senator also said he would ask Abbott to testify that Lacson and Ong never talked to each other about drug operations.

Confrontation

In a break in the hearing, Ong insisted that Lacson was the mastermind of drug activities involving law-enforcement agencies.

"He is trying to control and monopolize the drug operations here," she told reporters.

Now that Ong has formally implicated him before the Senate, Lacson said he intends to attend tomorrow's hearing to "confront" her.

"I was waiting for my name to crop up," Lacson told reporters, explaining why he finally planned to show up in the Senate inquiry into military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus' claim that Lacson was involved in criminal activities.

The senator said he would bring documents to "pinpoint inconsistencies" in Ong's testimony so far. The inquiry goes into its fifth hearing tomorrow.

Aside from a possible confrontation between Lacson and Ong, Acop, Campos and Supt. Francisco Villaroman have been invited to attend the hearing to refute the charges against them.

Phone call

Ong said that when Abbott called her from Hong Kong, he told her, before turning over the phone to Lacson: "Whatever happens, I want to make sure that Ping Lacson knows, I want to make sure that you tell him about the selling and consignment of the drugs."

She said she told Lacson that she was "not paid for some of my projects."

"I know that you and General Acop have differences, now that I am under PAOCTF, this is the only project that I am counting on. This is my last project for me to get P3 million," she claimed she said.

She said Lacson and Acop were fighting over the division of alleged loot such as seized drugs, cars and cash.

Upon questioning by Sen. Ralph Recto, Ong admitted that the "falling out" with her bosses in some of the deals led her to turn against them.

She said they used to deal drugs through her, but that she later learned that Lacson, aide Michael Ray Aquino and businessman Kim Wong were dealing with the Hong Kong triad directly.

Ong said she was working on a "per-project" basis. For the Oplan Athena project, she was supposed to be paid P2 million but only got P240,000, she claimed.

She was also allegedly promised a part of the proceeds from the sale of shabu seized in a Pandacan warehouse in May 1998. Of the 35 kilos seized, she said, John Campos only turned over 11 kilos to authorities, while 24 kilos were "recycled" and sold to illegal drug dealers.

The proceeds reportedly went to Acop, Campos and other members of their team. She said she was promised 5 kilos, but was only given P390,000.

Wong and Chong

Ong told the senators that Acop's men executed two suspected Chinese drug traffickers from Hong Kong, Wong Kam Chong and Chong Hiu Ming, on May 18, 1999.

On that day, she said, she attended a meeting with Acop, Campos and the other police officers in Camp Vicente Lim in Quezon City where they discussed what to do with the two men, who had been arrested and were in their custody.

Campos, she alleged, wanted to stage a shootout between the suspects and the police, but Villaroman objected because Wong had been in their custody for almost two months.

"Acop decided *na ibibyahe na lang*," Ong said, meaning that he wanted the two men killed.

She said Acop then called Lacson, who was "angry" about the situation. Ong quoted Acop as saying that Lacson asked why the two men were still alive.

She said Acop sent her to tell the two doomed men that they were going to be released.

Ong told senators that she learned about the death of the suspects on Aug. 28, 1999 in a lunch meeting in Casa Nila restaurant in Greenhills, San Juan. Aside from Acop and his men, Michael Ray Aquino came to the meeting.

Burned, pulverized

In a Jan. 8, 2001 affidavit submitted to the Office of the Ombudsman, Ong said Wong and Chong and another abducted Chinese, Chan Ka Tseung, were killed, their bodies chopped into pieces before they were burned and pulverized.

Ong claimed that the officers who killed the three Chinese were Villaroman, Campos, Senior Insp. Julius Mana, Capt. Avelino Abogado, Ricardo Watanabe and a retired policeman of the Laguna police force.

Ong also talked about the alleged fate of four Chinese suspected drug lords, including Zeng Kang Fang, one of four Chinese earlier kidnapped along with Wong, but later released.

She said that the PAOCTF made it appear that the triad "re-kidnapped" Zeng on Jan. 11, 2000.

But she said that Zeng's rescue was "staged" by PAOCTF agents led by Glenn Dumlao. Zeng was tortured, she added, and was hospitalized with several "drill holes" in his body.

She said Zeng's rescue in Baguio City became news, with Supt. Michael Ray Aquino telling reporters that 11 kilos of shabu were recovered.

Ong said that she knew of the existence of a videocassette showing that police personnel involved in Oplan Cyclops tortured and killed Zeng and two other Chinese nationals in Baguio.

She said Lacson had a copy of the tape that he later turned over to anti-crime civic leader Teresita Ang-See.

Ong took Ang-See to task for not making that tape public and for allegedly helping Acop and Lacson cover the matter up.

She said she had been going on radio "asking Ang-See to surrender the tapes to the Senate so the tapes can help us explain all these murders."

But Lacson said he had never even held the tape, which was recovered in a PAOCTF operation on Baguio.

Cyclops

Continuing with her testimony in the fourth hearing on the anti-Lacson allegations, Ong revealed in detail her version of what happened during Oplan Cyclops, a secret police project allegedly involving surveillance, wiretapping and kidnapping operations.

The INQUIRER reported last month that Ong, in a sworn statement submitted to US customs authorities investigating Lacson for alleged money laundering, said he and his men were involved in the kidnappings and murders of five alleged drug traffickers from a Hong Kong triad operating in the Philippines.

Yesterday, Ong told the Senate panel that the Cyclops project was launched in January 1999 after the completion of Oplan Athena, an anti-narcotics operation during which police agents allegedly sold confiscated shabu to suspected Chinese drug lords detained in Camp Crame.

Ong said that Acop headed the operation, which involved Campos, Villaroman and other police officers.

Oplan Cyclops, she said, involved the entrapment of Wong Kam Chong, the suspected triad member who was allegedly killed in May 1999.

Earlier, police officers placed Chong under surveillance, because he was sent by the triad on Dec. 28, 1998 to the Philippines to deal with Acop's group under Oplan Athena, she said.

Ong said the police agents, tapping into the phone in Chong's room at the Century Park hotel, heard him talking to Wong about a drug shipment.

She said that on Dec. 30, Chong was taken to a townhouse that she owns, and was held and questioned about the drug shipment.

Acop's group, she claimed, contacted Chong's relatives to arrange a ransom payment for the release of the Hong Kong national.

The relatives paid a P2.5-million ransom to the group, she said.

Shabu queen

Wong arrived in Manila in March 1999, and was abducted with four others—Zeng Jia Huan, Hong Zhen Qiao, 16-year-old Zeng Kang Fang and driver James Ong, on March 26 that year by Acop's group, Ong alleged.

Except for Wong, the abducted men were released, she said. Ong said Acop's men wanted Wong to tell them where the triad's drug warehouse was but the latter could or would not.

Ong said that although Wong's family paid P20 million for his release, he was killed instead.

Acop, she claimed, became alarmed after a lawyer of jailed "shabu queen" Yu Yuk Lai, Wong's godmother, tried to intercede to obtain his release.

Ong admitted that she and other agents frequently fought over the loot, money and cars they allegedly recovered.

She said she was gifted with a Nissan Sentra in a raid in 1999, and that someone else got a Ford and Mitsubishi Pajero.

Ong also corroborated Angelo "Ador" Mawanay's testimony that missing Chinese interpreter Angelito Sy was also abducted by the group and liquidated because he knew of a drug shipment involving Kim Wong.

Loren: Credible

"*Masyadong malalim at nakakapangilabot ng mga gawain*," was how Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda described Ong's allegations, particularly on the torture and execution of Chong and Wong.

"It's the first time a witness (has appeared) with a semblance of credibility," Legarda said of Ong's testimony.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said that so far Ong's testimony has proven to be "damaging" for those she has implicated.

Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs, said that they would have to evaluate the documents that Ong submitted to them, including papers tracing the drug money trail in Oplan Athena.

For instance, she submitted deposit slips made out to the bank accounts of Campos, claiming they represented proceeds from drug sales.

She also submitted taped conversations of Acop's men in their drug dealings with the triad.

Lack of proof

But Lacson said "records will bear out" that the Cyclops operation was handled by PNP Region 4 agents, not PAOCTF.

"The only participation of PAOCTF was as the conduit of communication between the Hong Kong police and those pursuing" suspected drug lord Wong Kam Chong, he said.

Senator-lawyers Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Renato Cayetano and Francisco Pangilinan shared Lacson's view that Ong's testimony lacked hard evidence.

"She's only saying she heard things from somebody, we still don't have any direct evidence, but only circumstantial evidence" linking Lacson to the alleged crimes, Cayetano said.

Pimentel said that Ong seemed to be primarily targeting Acop with her accusations. He speculated she was doing so because of Acop's perceived closeness to Lacson.

Lacson proposed summoning Acop and other officials mentioned by Ong, instead of listening to the ex-agent talk about what they supposedly said.

Biazon raps Lacson for misuse of PMA code

(From page A1)

Biazon commended Reyes for answering the way he did, noting that the defense chief was already under oath in the Senate.

Before the start of the Question Hour, Cayetano stood up to clarify Lacson's statement against him.

Cayetano heard from reporters that Lacson had complained that Cayetano appeared to be lawyering for Mary "Rosebud" Ong, a former civilian agent of the PNP, during the Senate hearing on allegations that Lacson was involved in kidnap for ransom, summary execution and drug trafficking.

"(Cayetano) was not treating me as a fellow senator," Lacson told reporters.

Cayetano denied he was lawyering for anyone.

"Since I attended the hearing, I did not or would not be a lawyer for anyone, but a lawyer for the Filipino people and for truth," Cayetano said.

He said Lacson's remark was "unjustified."

Cayetano told reporters that the testimony so far of the witnesses had not yet directly linked Lacson to any of the charges against him.

Responding on the floor to Cayetano's statement, Lacson said it was his impression that the senator was lawyering for Ong.

He also said Cayetano did not address him properly during the hearings, only calling him "Lacson."

Don't count out Ador, says priest

(From page A1)

Argee Guevarra, a member of Mawanay's legal support group, said they expected Mawanay to be invited to the next hearing scheduled tomorrow.

Guevarra said Mawanay would likely take his turn at testifying after Indian national Danny Devnani, an alleged member of deposed President Joseph Estrada's inner circle.

But Sen. Robert Barbers, chair of the committee on public order and illegal drugs, one of the three panels conducting the hearings, said they still had to deliberate on whether to invite Mawanay in the near future.

For now, Barbers said, there was need to complete Ong's testimony.

"There should be continuity in the hearings," he said, adding that the committees were now on a topic-to-topic format.

Caluag said Mawanay was gathering more evidence to prove that Lacson and his men at the then Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force were involved in kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking, smuggling and other criminal activities.

The priest, who provided safe haven to the alleged ex-PAOCTF agent and his family before the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines took them in protective custody, said a much better Mawanay was set to face the Senate.

Mawanay was stricken ill last week and was taken to hospital for treatment for dehydration.

"Right now, I'm reminding him that it's important to win this case," Caluag told the INQUIRER. "So I always tell him to produce more evidence, evidence, evidence."

On Aug. 17, at the first of the Senate hearings on the allegations against Lacson, Mawanay angered the senators, particularly Loren Legarda, when he claimed that she purchased from him 1,000 smuggled cellular phones in December 1998.

The senators ordered Mawanay detained at the Senate basement until he had produced evidence to prove his allegation. But he was released days later.

Trust and confidence

Caluag said he and Isafp chief Col. Victor Corpus were in full support of Mawanay despite his controversial testimony that critics had described as preposterous and reckless.

"We'll stick it out with Ador. We have full trust and confidence in him," Caluag said.

The priest said that during a visit to Mawanay's quarters in Camp Aguinaldo last weekend, he reminded the witness "to focus on the things that he knows well and be more careful with implicating anyone."

"I told him to make sure that he has evidence before makes any revelation," Caluag said. "Otherwise, he would be at the losing end even if the revelations were true."

Caluag said Mawanay remained as focused and determined as when he first came out in the open against Lacson.

His only fear, according to the priest, is whether his wife and two children will still be safe "after everything is over."

Mawanay's legal support group said the break in his testimony had allowed him the chance to attend to his four cases of estafa, for which he posted bail yesterday.

'Still in the picture'

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. professed ignorance of Mawanay's current status.

"You have to ask the chairman (Barbers). Maybe he will decide on that (issue)," Pimentel said.

But Leonard de Vera, legal counsel for Devnani, said Mawanay was "still in the picture."

De Vera said Ong was being given attention now because of her "personal knowledge" of Lacson's alleged involvement in drug trafficking.

Guevarra said Mawanay was not being called to the hearings because he was involved in a "different topic."

The lawyer brushed aside speculation that Mawanay was being shut out by virtue of his supposedly dubious testimony.

In the first place, Guevarra said, the hearings were called on the basis of Senate Resolution No. 49, which calls for an investigation of Mawanay's charges against Lacson.

"You cannot remove him from the picture. He is the reason why we have this '*tele-novela*,'" Guevarra said.

However, he admitted that there might be some senators "who no longer want to hear (Mawanay's) testimony."

SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

JOAN BONDOC

A movie date for the first couple who caught the last full show of "Rush Hour" at Robinson's Galleria on Sunday night. They themselves became a sideshow.

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Django wins World Pool title

BUSTAMANTE: "Earl was unlucky."

FILE PHOTO

FRANCISCO "Django" Bustamante nosed out Earl Strickland, 7-6, in a thrilling final of the World Pool Masters Sunday to nail down his second championship in the prestigious 9-ball tournament at the Lakeside Shopping Center in Thurrock, Essex, England.

Bustamante pocketed the champion's purse of $15,000 (P750,000) for winning the event he first ruled in 1998.

Strickland arranged the showdown with Bustamante after whipping Efren "Bata" Reyes, 7-0, in the semifinals, thus preventing an all-Filipino affair.

The Germany-based Bustamante had earlier moved to the semis by edging Marcus Çharrat of Sweden, 7-6.

On the other hand, Reyes set up the duel with Strickland by humbling reigning world pool titlist Mika Immonen of Finland, 7-2, in the quarterfinals

Bustamante and Reyes, sponsored by sportsmen-businessmen Jose G. Puyat and Aristeo G. Puyat of Puyat Sports, were two of the 16 top pool pros invited to the tournament by promoter Matchroom Sport.

The Bustamante-Strickland final was a tense, exciting encounter, witnessed by a huge gallery, and marked by stunning shots and shocking mistakes.

It went down to the deciding 13th rack. After Strickland's break came up dry, a safety exchange ensued before a great shot by Bustamante put him in the driver's seat. With a difficult clearance ahead he held his nerve to eventually beat the veteran Americam cue artist.

"Earl and I played terribly. We missed a lot of balls but really he was a bit unlucky. He never made anything on the break while I did and think that's what counted in the end," said Bustamante.

"The Filipino people in the audience were amazing, there were so many of them it was like playing in Manila. I'm so pleased to win this championship again," added Bustamante, who is set to compete in the US Open next week.

Strickland settled for $5,000.

Southwoods scholar joins tennis squad

JOSEPH Victorino, a full-pledge tennis scholar of the Manila Southwoods Tennis Academy under the Fil-Estate Sports Foundation Inc. (FESFI), will join the Philippine Davis Cup team as the youngest representative in the event of the Southeast Asian Games.

The inclusion of the 17-year-old Victorino, now ranked in the top 200 junior players in the world, can be credited mainly on his sterling performances in the international and national tournaments.

Victorino won his first ITF Championship in the double's event in Sarawak, Malaysia last year. He had an unblemished record in the doubles event of the Davis Cup Group 3 in the ITF Vietnam Tennis Championships, defeating the number 2 junior player of powerhouse Australia in the process. He was also undefeated in the doubles event in the Davis Cup Group 3 qualifying matches that helped the Philippines regain respectable position back in the Group 2 of the Asia Oceania Davis Cup Zone.

This year, he reached the singles finals in the recently concluded National Open Men's Championship held at the Rizal Memorial Complex.

FESFI chair Robert John L. Sobrepena believes that Victorino can be the next Felicisimo Ampon, the country's top tennis player at the Wimbledon in the '50s and '60s, given the right training and by competing in more tournaments (foreign and local).

"The academy's training program and his international tennis exposure have greatly helped refine his (Victorino's) game," Sobrepena said. "Aside from developing his skills, we teach him discipline, good manners, ethics and especially mold him to be an individual and team player."

After the SEA Games, Victorino is set to play in the World Super Juniors in Osaka, Japan on Oct. 8-14. The tournament is categorized as Group A, same as the Wimbledon, the French Open, the US Open and the Australian Open.

Victorino will then proceed to Hong Kong for the Hong Kong Open Junior Championships scheduled on Oct. 15-21.

Emmanuel "Manny" Tecson, a former World Group Davis Cup captain and Victorino's coach and mentor for the last five years, said that it is a great opportunity for us to compete against the best in the world.

"It's been a long time since a Filipino player participated in such a big event. We would like to thank the Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) headed by Chairman Col. Buddy Andrada and director for training (national team) Johnny Jose, for the support in all the initiatives of the academy," said Tecson.

Benilde lady netters score

COLLEGE OF St. Benilde held back a courageous University of Santo Tomas, 3-0, to bag the collegiate women's team title in the 2001 Milo All-Students Tennis Championships over the weekend at the Rizal Memorial hardcourts.

With CSB's successful title defense, coach Victoriano Naluz's lasses led by Most Valuable Player (MVP) Petrona Bantay and Deena Rose Cruz had won every women's crown—the University Games, NCRAA, CHED and MILO events—in the last three years.

Bicol University High School completed its fairytale romp with a 2-1 upset over defending champs Assumption in the girls' team division; newcomer Philippine Christian University blanked Letran 3-0 to cop the boys' team event; and the Letran Knights shut out Ateneo 3-0 to capture the collegiate men's team title in the Milo netfest organized by the CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids.

Bantay was adjudged MVP together with Catherine Flores (Bicol University), Roel Licayan (PCU) and Chiemel Mantua (Letran).

Czech teener ousts Seles; Kuerten prevails

NEW YORK—Gustavo Kuerten dug a big hole, then worked his way out Sunday night at the U.S. Open.

The top-seeded Brazilian rallied to beat big-serving Belarussian Max Mirnyi 6-7 (5), 5-7, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (3), 6-2 in the final match of the third round.

Kuerten, nicknamed "Guga," played for three hours and 19 minutes before converting a break point on his 11th chance. His backhand passing shot clipped the net cord and skipped over Mirnyi's head for a 3-1 lead in the final set, and Kuerten quickly closed out the victory.

Monica Seles' fine summer ended abruptly when the two-time U.S. Open champion lost to Czech teenager Daja Bedanova 5-7, 6-4, 3-6, suffering her earliest exit since her second triumph here in 1992.

Wimbledon champion Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia also crashed out, losing 4-6, 6-7 (4), 6-7 (2) to Albert Costa, ranked 40th. It was Ivanisevic's fourth consecutive loss to the unseeded Spaniard.

The 18-year-old Bedanova, ranked 37th and with only one tournament title under her belt, capitalized on her perfect serve and crushing forehand, scoring the biggest win of her young career.

The victory moved Bedanova into Tuesday's quarterfinals against top-seeded Martina Hingis, a 6-4, 6-0 winner over No. 14 Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia.

It will be the first Grand Slam quarterfinal for the young Czech, who reached the fourth round of the Australian Open in January after beating Elena Dementieva.

Earlier, former champion Lindsay Davenport came back from a set down to beat Elena Likhovtseva of Russia 6-3, 0-6, 6-3.

In other action, No. 16 Tommy Haas of Germany defeated 41st-ranked Czech Jiri Novak 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the fourth round against No. 4 Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, who beat Spaniard Albert Portas 6-1, 6-3, 6-4 in a match devoid of the drama and controversy Hewitt produced in the previous round. *AP*

FOSTER'S
BELGIAN
RAND PRIX
FRA
CHAMP
Marlboro

52ND VICTORY

Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher celebrates during the podium ceremony after winning the Belgian Grand Prix Formula One at the Spa-Francorchamps race circuit in Spa, Belgium, Sunday. Schumacher won his 52nd race, surpassing Alain Prost's record of 51 Grand Prix triumphs. AP

Rizal bets top Davao Go for Goal

DAVAO CITY—Rizal Memorial Colleges banked anew on the heroics of Jason Mortillero to nip host Daniel Aguinaldo National High, 2-1, and clinch its first ever Davao City Coke Go-for-Goal title recently at the Aguinaldo field here.

Mortillero knocked in both RMC goals as he single-handedly fought off the challenge of the Aguinaldo booters in the closing minutes. Mortillero was eventually voted the most valuable player of the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola.

Moses Negro produced the lone marker for Aguinaldo, which failed anew to regain the title it first won in 1999. Aguinaldo also finished second last year.

Ateneo de Davao clinched third place by shading Don Carmen Denia High, 2-1, in the other match.

With the win, RMC earned the right to represent Davao City in the all-Davao sub-regional finals set at the PTA Stadium here on Nov. 9-11. Also vying in that tourney are Davao Oriental winner Maryknoll School of Lupon and the topnotcher in the Davao Norte and Compostela Valley eliminations.

Over in Tagum City, defending champion Jose Tuason High toppled Tagum National High, 3-2, while Davao National High blanked New Corella High, 2-0, to arrange a showdown for the Davao Norte title today.

Ronel Deocampo tallied two goals while Rosendel Go added one to propel Jose Tuason to victory.

Lester Tabayo and Jacinto Celmar produced Tagum's markers.

Edward Manhos knocked in two goals for Davao National High.

RP XI backed

THE PHILIPPINE Football Federation has raised over P300,000 in cash incentives to spur the women's national soccer team in going all out to capture the gold medal in the Southeast Asian Games kicking off next week in Malaysia.

"Our players have trained long and hard. We believe they have strong medal potentials. The PFF and its partners have put up these incentives so they will be inspired to excel and go for the gold and bring the glory and honor back to the country," said PFF president Rene Adad.

Daly snares 1st crown since '95

MUNICH, Germany—John Daly shot a 6-under-par 66 Sunday to win the BMW International Open by one stroke for his first victory since the 1995 British Open.

Daly finished with a tournament-record 27-under 261 to edge overnight leader Padraig Harrington of Ireland, who closed with a 68.

The victory marks a big step for the 35-year-old American in his latest attempt to put behind a troubled past marked by drinking and erratic behavior.

"I just want to thank everybody around the world who's been rooting for me because it has been a long time, a long six years. This trophy belongs to all of them as well," Daly said.

In discussing his comeback, the two-time major champion said this summer that a first-place finish "would be the greatest win ever. Not too many people would have made it this far." *AP*

Golden rules Classic

SPRINGFIELD, Illinois—Kate Golden roared past Annika Sorenstam to win her first LPGA Tour title, shooting a 9-under 63 Sunday to overcome a six-stroke deficit in the State Farm Classic.

"My knees started shaking on the 15th tee, and they haven't stopped yet," the 33-year-old former University of Texas star said after friends showered her with beer in celebration.

Golden's career-best 63 gave her a 21-under 267 total, four strokes better than the previous tournament record. She earned $ 150,000 to nearly triple her season earnings at $ 200,979.

'Ratratan' tilt unfolds today

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's "Ratratan 6-Stag Derby," billed as a showdown of champions, will have its qualifying round at 6 p.m. featuring more than 50 fights.

Sponsors of the event are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

The derby, hosted by veteran pitfighters Ramon Manzenares and Muroy Dolorico, is Mandaluyong Coliseum's second offering for the 2001 stagfighting season after last week's highly successful RLB Annual 7-Stag Derby.

Expected to provide tough challenges to regular Ucap members are guest participants like Otic Geroso, Elwin Javelosa, Al Garcia, Vice Mayor Mark dela Cruz and Boy Cuadra from Negros Occidental, engineer Joel Cruz of Batangas, Magno Lim and Ody Fausto of Tuguegarao, Roel Feliciano, Madlambayan brothers and Jingco brothers of Pampanga.

Meanwhile, the race for Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2001 officially starts on Sept. 11 and 13 with the staging of the "1st Ucap/BJ Greenwood 7-Stag Derby" to be hosted by Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos.

For inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

Ong outshines GP opponents

SUBIC—Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery crowned himself as the newest champion in the Petron Grand Prix, beating archrival Kookie Ramirez and a host of other equally talented drivers at the end of the limpet saws at the Subic International Raceway here Sunday.

Undaunted by the strong challenge put up by Ramirez in the 14th and final round, Ong kept his poise under championship pressure and emerged as the overall winner in the centerpiece Blaze super saloon category in this event organized by the Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron Corp.

"Im very, very happy. This is a major achievement for me," said Ong, who finished fourth behind Jomari Yllana, Ramirez and Jody Coseteng in the season ending round race to finally wrap up the overall championship in this premier car racing competition in the country.

Shell karting goes to Cebu

CEBU will be the host of the eighth and penultimate leg of the 2001 Shell Super Karting Championships—the biggest karting competition in the country—on Sunday, Sept. 9.

The country's top karters, led by seventh-leg winners Pepon Marave and Lee Bumgarner, resume their hunt for top honors in their respective categories in this annual series organized by the Carmona Circuit Phils. in cooperation with Shell Velocity, Shell Helix and Shell Citibank Mastercard.

Marave and Bumgarner topped their respective categories in the previous leg held at the Batangas Racing Circuit last month although they will be hard-pressed to duplicate their accomplishment in this event also sponsored by Coca-Cola, Bridgestone, Nokia, Match Box/Hot Wheels, Eastway Racing and Demvel's Enterprises.

Marave will be challenged by Jeff Cabalinan, Philip Alvendia, Manuel Mayo and hometown hero Jess Garcia in the centerpiece Formula Super A category.

Garcia, who made his presence felt by winning the sixth leg also held in Rosario, Batangas on July 29, is expected to put up another impressive performance before his provincemates and keep his hopes alive for the prestigious "Karter of the Year" award.

Bumgarner will seek his fourth straight win in the Demvel's-sponsored Formula 125 and Rotax Challenge against a small but tough field which include Bert Neuhof, Mike Francisco, Mike Sy and Angelo Barretto.

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MOTOR SPORTS: International Motorsport News 2001 at 10:30 a.m. on Star Sports
AMA Motocross at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN
Race Day · Belgium Grand Prix at 3:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▨ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

INQUIRER Golf Monthly tomorrow

DUE to a computer glitch, the INQUIRER Golf Monthly will appear tomorrow instead of today. We apologize for the delay.

POC still recognizes Puyat group–Dayrit

By JUNE NAVARRO

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit said yesterday the POC does not recognize the election of Tiny Literal as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Literal won unopposed on Sunday in an election ordered and supervised by the International Basketball Federation (Fiba). Literal had won the post six times during the last nine months.

Dayrit, who boycotted the polls, said the POC will continue to recognize Lito Puyat as the legitimate BAP.

"The POC position will only be overturned once the POC executive board convenes and renders a new decision," said Dayrit.

But Dayrit stressed that the POC has decided to postpone the Olympic body's stand on the leadership issue until after the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games.

Dayrit said the POC would focus on the biennial meet set on Sept. 8-17 instead of discussing the controversy.

"We should be happy that we can now send a team to the SEA Games. Let's concentrate on the Games and tackle the issue later," Dayrit told the INQUIRER a day after the International Basketball Federation (Fiba) lifted its suspension on the BAP.

DAYRIT

Fiba deputy secretary general Patrick Baumann presided over the election of Literal, who won minus an opponent, 21-0.

Dayrit pointed out that an official communication from the Fiba should be sent to the POC before they could discus the merits of Literal's election.

"Right now, we have not received any official report from the Fiba. We will act on it as soon as the Fiba sends its communication," said Dayrit.

Literal had a different version of the matter.

"It's purely common sense for the POC," Literal said. "How can we participate in international events without the sanction of the Fiba?

The answer is very easy that even a grade schooler won't miss it. Recognize our group and the problem will be finally settled."

Literal confirmed that the squad composed of MBA hotshots will definitely defend the country's crown in the SEA Games.

Without recognition from the Fiba, the country will not be allowed to participate on international tournaments sanctioned by the world governing body in basketball such as the Olympics, Asian Games, SEA Games and even the ABC basketball championships.

Puyat slams Fiba

LITO Puyat vowed yesterday to defend the legitimacy of his group as he slammed the Fiba for ignoring the Court of Appeals decision nullifying Literal's leadership.

He said the Fiba-supervised election was predictable and argued his presence during Sunday's exercise would legitimize Fiba's action.

"We cannot surrender our sovereignty to the Fiba because the BAP issue should have been solved as an internal matter," said Puyat, a fomer two-time Fiba president.

"The country's second-highest court has spoken in our favor. And yet, here comes the Fiba giving its sanction to the group that was illegal right from the start," he said.

Travesty

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THE INTERNATIONAL Basketball Federation (Fiba) did an unprecedented act for Philippine sports just the other day by ordering the holding of an election for president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines. Tiny Literal, who wanted that to happen, won unopposed.

Before we even start applauding, we should first study the consequences of Fiba's action.

Was Fiba's action legal in the eyes of both the courts of the land and the country's Olympic movement?

I don't think so.

To me, the action was illegal from the very start. To even think of doing it won't hold water.

Look, we have the Philippine Olympic Committee to start with. The POC is the sole body to decide sports matters of the land. If you will remember, the POC, months ago, has made it clear it had recognized Lito Puyat the BAP president. When Puyat's opponent, Literal, went to court to question the POC decision, the court rebufffed Literal. The Court of Appeals overturned a lower court decision and anointed POC the sole body empowered to recognize the group that would lead the BAP. The POC, even before the arrival of the CA ruling, had long picked Puyat's group the legal BAP president. Literal went to Fiba and Fiba took Literal's line hook, line and sinker.

Recall the case of chess.

The Philippine Chess Federation wasn't a POC member when the National Chess Federation of the Philippines applied for POC membership. The International Chess Federation (Fide) told the NCFP that minus a POC membership, we cannot accept you. So, upon proper representation, the NCFP got the POC nod and next came Fide's blessings. The PCF was left in the cold since the route the NCFP took was proper and therefore legal all the way.

Alas, that cannot be said of the basketball brouhaha.

The Fiba ignored both the authority of the POC, which was fortified even more by the honorable judges of the Court of Appeals.

In the first place, there was no election to speak of. The main agenda agreed upon was for an arbitration in a bid to resolve the Literal case. Why Fiba went on to order the holding of an election unmasked of a hidden agenda from the very beginning: They were bent on making Literal BAP president.

In the second place, Puyat's side was never heard in a proper forum, a fact that smacked of arbitrariness on the part of Fiba. Fiba used only Literal's side as basis to decide the holding of an election.

Be that as it may, I would have still readily approved of Fiba's action if it had the blessings of the POC through its president, Cito Dayrit. For, a POC blessing would have been perfect as it would conform to the CA ruling. I would have even volunteered to start the applause for Literal's election.

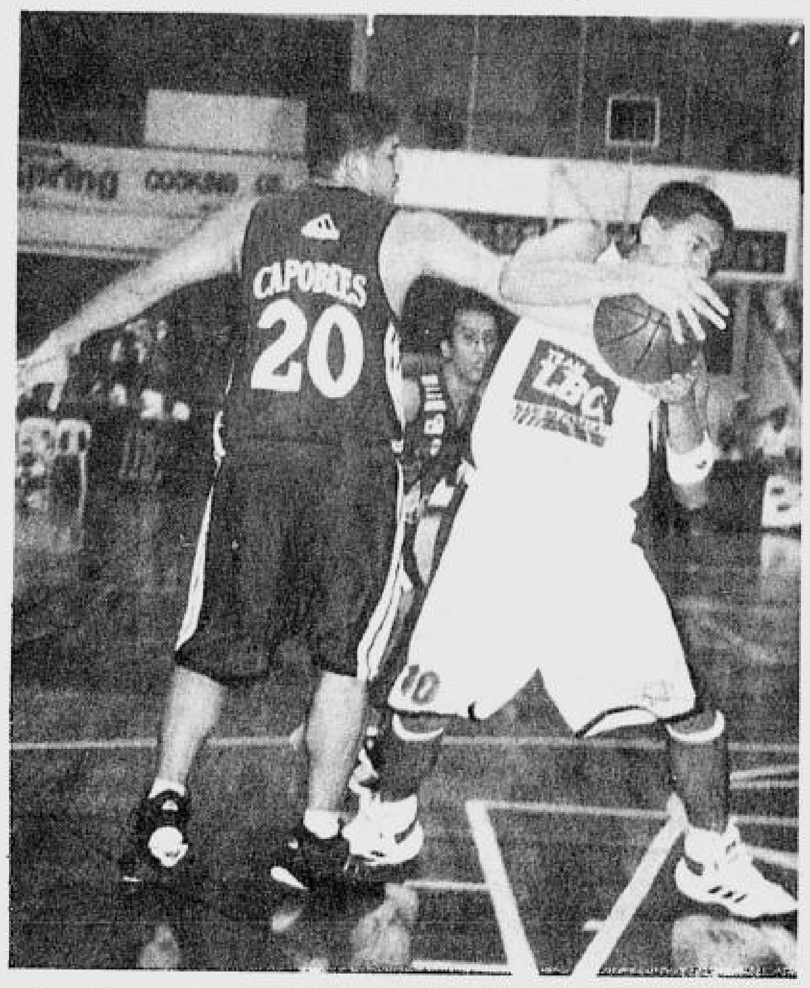
Now, as to the lifting of the BAP suspension banning the country from participating in Fiba-sanctioned events like the SEA Games, no big deal there, fellas. Time and again, I kept saying here that we would make it to Kuala Lumpur. Hunch.

Gold glitters more than Cito Dayrit's grit—the basketball gold being more important than principle to most of our sports leaders, anyway.

So, what will happen now? Will the POC now have a change of heart as to say it will recognize Literal and dump Puyat?

Whichever way it goes, no more will I be surprised. I've heard and seen enough.

Meanwhile, there is no truth to the rumor that the next election of president of the Philippine Track and Field Association (Patafa) will be held on orders of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Also, no truth to the rumor that Go Teng Kok won't be running for Patafa president anymore.



LBC Batangas' Romel Adducul (right) disputes ball possession with Andok's San Juan's Danny Capobres in file photo. Adducul will spearhead the Philippine team to the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Pinoy bets bumped off Malaysia plane

By DENNIS U. EROA

IN A surprising twist, some 350 athletes and officials from the Philippine delegation to the 21st SEA Games slated from Sept. 8-17 will fly via Singapore Airlines instead of the Malaysian Air Lines, the national carrier of host Malaysia.

Sources said the sudden change of carrier happened when management of the Malaysian Air Lines declined to upgrade the booking of two persons related to a high Malacañang official as requested by Elite Travel Agency, winner of the bid to provide plane tickets to the whole Philippine delegation to the biennial Games.

The INQUIRER tried but failed to reach Carlos Tuason, chair of the Philippine Sports Commission, to comment on this development, which is regarded by SEA Games experts a big mistake considering that Malaysia will host the SEAG.

"Chairman Tuason is already out of the office. I'm just a cleaner here," somebody from the Chair's office at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex told the INQUIRER.

An insider confirmed that there was a change of booking. "We just follow orders. You have to talk to the chairman regarding the reasons," said the INQUIRER source.

Only the members of shooting, karate and table tennis teams numbering 55 were retained to hold tickets for Malaysian Air Lines.

Staffers of Elite Travel, which is located in Makati City, also confirmed the new booking but remained silent when asked to comment on the reason.

The INQUIRER source stressed, however, that there will be no delays in flight schedules.

"It's all systems go, " said the source. "What happened was a change of carriers which, unfortunately, might offend Malaysia."

NCAA Today (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)

12nn—San Beda vs Letran (jrs/srs)
3:30 p.m.—CSB vs PCU (jrs/srs)

Proper diet key to victory–Orbeta

JUST like talent and training, diet plays a vital part to the athletes' success.

This is why the Philippine contingent to the Southeast Asian Games, apart from the coaches and trainers, is being supported by a team of nutritional experts.

"Everyone going to the SEA Games has to pass our department," said Dr. Sanirose Orbeta, head of the Sports Nutrition Unit of the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine. "We set nutritional standards and conduct dietary assessment tests to improve the athletes' eating habits."

Orbeta, also the sports nutrition consultant to the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee, asserts that without the right diet, even the best workouts cannot help one's chances of winning a competition.

"The athlete who does not follow the rules for good nutrition is at a marked disadvantage. He will not perform well," said Orbeta, who bared that meal plans differ among athletes as events require varying forms and degrees of activity.

According to Orbeta, noted for restructuring boxer Gerry Peñalosa's diet in 1998 that has now produced wonders for the former world champion, endurance sports call for a higher amount of carbohydrates; bodybuilders compete on a high-protein diet and weightlifters require larger portions of protein sources.

Orbeta added that gymnasts require the complex mix of nutrients because "you need to give them enough energy food and maintain slimness at the same time."

ORBETA

RP team faces MBA selection

By ROY LUARCA

LAST-MINUTE changes have been instituted in the Philippine team set to defend its men's basketball crown in the coming Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur.

Shooters Jomar Tierra and Vince Hizon were elevated to the regular roster, while Randy Lopez was included as the 13th member of the national team composed of MBA standouts.

Tierra and Hizon took over the slots vacated by Cebuana Lhuillier Gems Stephen Padilla and Homer Se, who were unavailable due to conflict in schedules.

They will suit up when the Nationals, who swept the Southeast Asia Basketball Association men's championship, tackle the MBA selection tomorrow at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

Dubbed the MBA's best against the rest, the exhibition game is set at 5 p.m. It takes the place of the regular doubleheader, which has been moved to Nov. 14 to give way to the SEA Games campaign of the Philippines.

Skippered by Romel Adducul of LBC Batangas, the Philippine team also includes Batangas' Peter Martin and Eddie Laure; Andok's San Juan's Chris Calaguio, Omanzie Rodriguez and Chito Victolero; Negros' John Ferriols and Ruben dela Rosa; Socsargen's Egay Echavez and FedEx Laguna's Junel Mendiola.

The RP team is being mentored by Boyzie Zamar, assisted by Johnny Tam and Bong Ramos.

FedEx chair and Laguna Lakers owner Bert Lina has been named team manager of the Nationals, who are going to defend the title won by the predominantly Manila Metrostars in 1999 in the Brunei SEAG.

Andok's San Juan coach Philip Cezar has been tasked to coach the MBA selection. Composing the squad are San Juan's Rafi Reavis and Danny Capobres; LBC Batangas' Tonyboy Espinosa, Chucho Serrano and Alex Compton; Negros' Cid White and Reynel Hugnatan, Nueva Ecija's Francis Aquino, Socsargen's Bong Alvarez, Cebuana Lhuillier's Joey Santamaria and FedEx Laguna's Chris Clay and Jeffrey Flowers.

The MBA selection, with Multi-Regional Board Inc. chair and LBC Batangas owner Santi Araneta as manager, will hold its first practice session at 7 a.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

MBA director for business development Ramon Tuason said the game to be telecast live over National Broadcasting Network (PTV 4) would use amateur rules.

Acting MBA commissioner Butch Antonio also announced that the tournament is taking a break for the duration of the SEA Games.

WBL opens Sunday

THE COUNTRY'S biggest multi-level girls' basketball tournament—the Milo BEST Center 15th Women's Basketball League (WBL)—will unwrap on Sunday, Sept. 9, with 31 teams seeing action at the St. Benedict College courts in Alabang.

The Women's Volleyball League (WVL) featuring 19 teams will also unfold on Sunday in the same venue.

The WBL contenders are:

Elementary—Assumption (San Lorenzo), Colegio de Sta. Rosa, Community of Learners Foundation, De La Salle Zobel, JASMS, Miriam College, Poveda, Holy Spirit, St. Scholastica's College and UP Integrated School.

High school (developmental)—Ernesto Rondon High, Flos Carmeli, Makati High, Miriam, Philippine Science High, Poveda, St. Benedict, St. James Academy, St. Scholastica's, UST and UP.

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
New York	81	56	.591	—
Boston	71	64	.526	9
Toronto	67	70	.489	14
Baltimore	55	81	.404	25 1/2
Tampa Bay	49	88	.358	32
Central				
Cleveland	77	59	.566	—
Minnesota	72	65	.525	5 1/2
Chicago	69	66	.511	7 1/2
Detroit	55	80	.407	21 1/2
Kansas City	55	82	.401	22 1/2
West				
Seattle	98	39	.715	—
Oakland	80	57	.584	18
Anaheim	70	67	.511	28
Texas	62	75	.453	36

National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
East				
Atlanta	73	63	.537	—
Philadelphia	72	64	.529	1
New York	65	72	.475	8 1/2
Florida	63	73	.463	10
Montreal	59	77	.434	14
Central				
Houston	80	56	.588	—
Chicago	76	60	.559	4
St. Louis	73	63	.537	7
Milwaukee	60	75	.444	19 1/2
Cincinnati	55	81	.404	25
Pittsburgh	50	85	.370	29 1/2
West				
Arizona	78	59	.569	
San Francisco	76	61	.555	2
Los Angeles	75	62	.547	3
San Diego	69	68	.504	9
Colorado	59	76	.437	18

COMPLETE RESULTS

American League

Toronto 11, Detroit 0; Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 1; Seattle 1, Baltimore 0; Minnesota 5, Anaheim 4; Texas 12, Kansas City 6; Chicago White Sox 19, Cleveland 10; N.Y. Yankees 1, Boston 0.

National League

Cincinnati 8, Pittsburgh 6, Atlanta 7, Chicago Cubs 4; Florida 5, N.Y. Mets 1; Montreal 6, Philadelphia 2; Houston 1, Milwaukee 0; San Francisco 3, Colorado 1; San Diego 1, Arizona 0, 13 innings; Los Angeles 7, St. Louis 3. *AP*

10 YEARS AGO

IM Rogelio Barcenilla Jr. beat Jean Marc Degraeve in 36 moves of a Pelican variation to advance into a tie for third to fifth places in the penultimate round of the World Junior chess championship in Mamaia, Romania. Barcenilla earned 8 points on 6 wins, 4 draws and 2 losses.

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

▩ Judy-Piolo movie too hot for Pasig man A20
▩ 1 killed, 3 injured A20
▩ Janitor kills self playing Russian roulette before GF A20

Young mom strangles 3-month-old baby

'She really loved her son,' says suspect's aunt

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

THROUGHOUT her interrogation, Dailyn Paniluan, 19, did not speak a word to policemen about the crime she was accused of committing, the strangling of her 3-month-old son.

Paniluan gave the policemen only blank stares. She sat still, speaking no word in her defense in the cold-blooded murder of her only son.

"The baby bore strangulation marks in the neck and his fists were closed tight," said investigator PO1 Romel Merino of the Central Police District. "He must have really suffered before he died."

Paniluan, a former maid and a resident of Goldenshower, Payatas, Quezon City, was arrested for strangling her son Ezequel in their home yesterday morning, Merino said.

Police are still trying to find out what led the young mother to kill her baby.

But based on the initial investigation, she might have killed him in a moment of madness because she could no longer bear to raise the child without the help of the absent father. The baby was said to be the product of an illicit relationship.

YOUNG MOM/ A20

Policemen in shootout; 1 injured

BY ALCUIN PAPA

AN ARGUMENT between two policemen during a drinking session on Sunday night in Muntinlupa City ended in a shootout that left one of them seriously injured.

The injured policeman SPO1 Nestor Tercero, 41, a resident of Immaculate Conception Street in Barangay Cupang, Muntinlupa City, is from the Las Piñas City Police. He suffered gunshot

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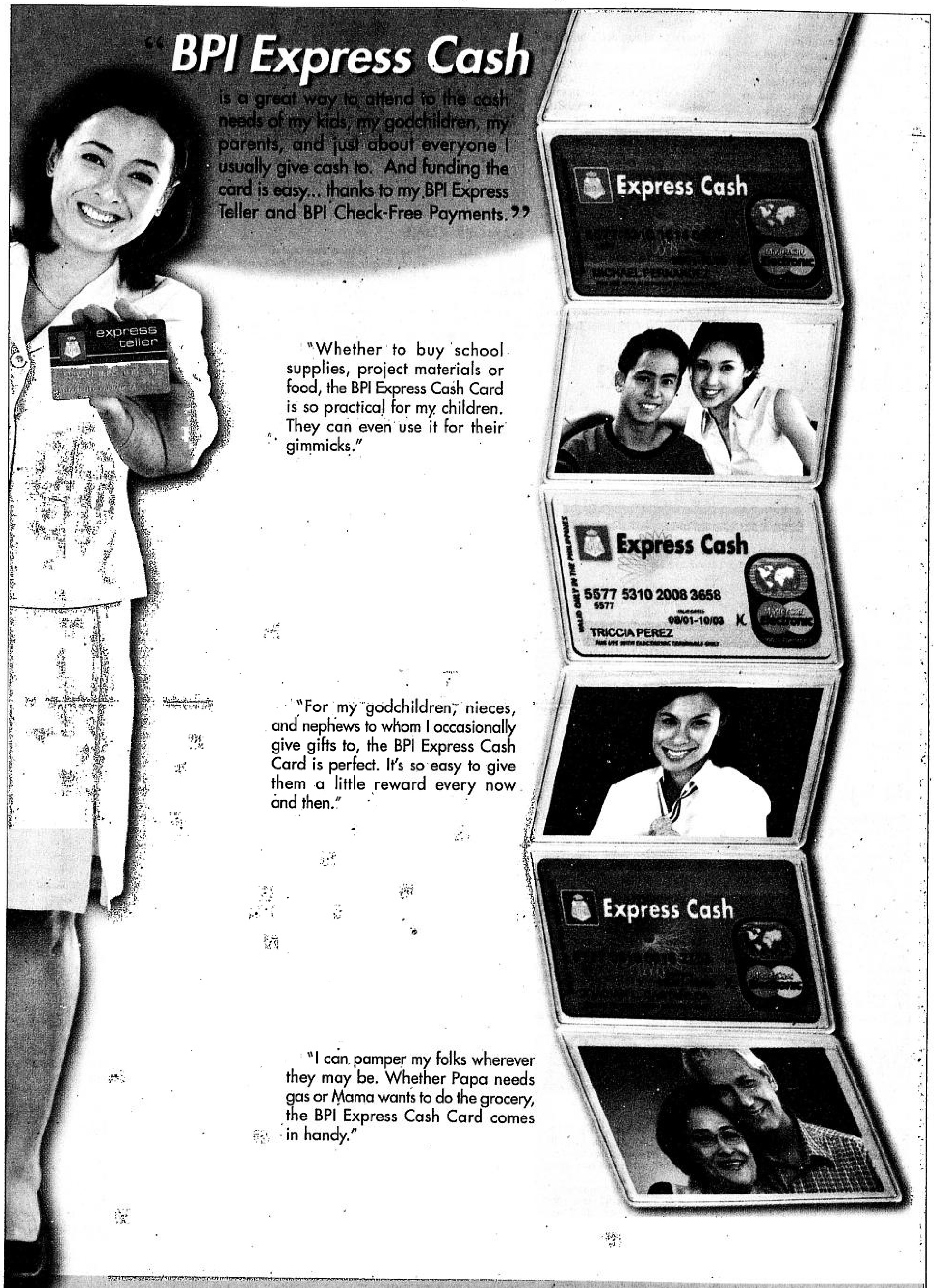

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Janitor kills self playing Russian roulette before GF

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

JANITOR Fresco M. Herrera, 26, threatened to kill himself if his girlfriend went ahead with her plan to visit her hometown in Bicol.

But that threat proved fatal for Herrera himself when the gun he was playing with went off and killed him right in front of his girlfriend in Quezon City Sunday afternoon.

Herrera, a stay-in janitor at the Ernesto Rondon High School, died when the gun he was pointing to his head went off, said investigator PO3 Leo Tabuena of the Central Police District Criminal Investigation Unit.

Herrera's girlfriend Lani M. Nebres went to the school on Road 3, Project 6, Quezon City, about 4:15 p.m. Sunday to ask Herrera's permission for her to go to Bicol, Tabuena said.

But Herrera, who had just separated from his wife, did not want his girlfriend to leave him even for a short time, Tabuena said.

Nebres told investigators that Herrera did not want to hear her explanation.

She said Herrera became emotional and threatened to kill himself if she left him.

Nebres tried to pacify him, but he became more listless and pulled out the service firearm which a school security guard entrusted to him for safekeeping, Tabuena said.

Nebres said Herrera played Russian roulette and placed one bullet in the gun's chamber.

Nebres panicked when Herrera pointed the gun at his right temple and pulled the trigger. It did not fire the first time, but it went off on Herrera's second try, Tabuena said.

The bullet entered Herrera's right temple and went out just above his left ear, he added.

Nebres tried to save her lover and took him to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center.

But after three hours of waiting, Nebres learned that her boyfriend passed away at 7:15 p.m., Tabuena said.

1 killed, 3 injured

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

AN EMPLOYEE of the Philippine National Railway Corp. was killed while three others were injured in two incidents on Sunday in Caloocan City.

PNRC Employee Boy Abrera, 35, died after his neighbor Pablo Erero, 28, allegedly stabbed him for indiscriminately firing a gun at the Aves Compound in Sangandaan in Caloocan City, police said.

A drunken Abrera arrived in the compound about 7:30 p.m. Sunday and fired a shot from his .99 mm Beretta pistol in front of Erero's house, said investigator SPO1 Antonio Paras.

Witnesses told police that Abrera became troublesome because of a problem.

Police said Erero, who was angered by the shooting, followed Abrera to his house and demanded an apology.

Instead of apologizing, Abrera pointed his gun at Erero and searched him for weapons, police said.

Erero became angrier and pulled out a knife and stabbed Abrera in the chest, police said.

But Abrera also managed to shoot Erero in the neck, chest and shoulder, police said.

One of the neighbors, Christopher Robadia, 25, tried to break the fight, but Abrera allegedly shot him in the arm.

Abrera died at the Caloocan General Hospital, while Robadia and Erero are still being treated at the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Center.

Also in Caloocan, an argument between a couple ended with the wife stabbing the husband.

Police said Danilo Edulag, 36, was stabbed in the chest by his wife Imelda during an argument in their house on A. Mabini Street, according to SPO2 Vicencio Gamboa.

Police said Edulag was rushed to the Jose Reyes Hospital for treatment.

Stray bullet fells worker

VENETIAN blinds installer Rommel M. Ecleo, 25, was engaged to be married this year. But tragedy struck Sunday night when a stray bullet hit Ecleo near the heart while he was eating barbecue with his fiancée at a Quezon City eatery.

Ecleo, of Kasunduan Street, Manggahan, Quezon City, did not make it alive to the hospital despite the efforts of his girlfriend and her sister, said investigator SPO3 Resty de Leon of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit.

De Leon said Ecleo, his fiancée and the latter's sister were walking home along Kasunduan Street when death caught up with the man around 8:15 p.m. Sunday.

De Leon said the three decided to stop at a barbecue stall.

But moments later, their light-hearted conversation abruptly ended when a gunshot rang out, De Leon said.

Ecleo grimaced and clasped his chest.

The girlfriend and her sister brought him to the Fairview General Hospital but Ecleo was declared dead on arrival at 8:35 p.m., De Leon said.

The girlfriend was inconsolable as Ecleo's cadaver was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for an autopsy, De Leon added.

Philip C. Tubeza

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 4, 2001
22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11**
Gospel: **Lk 4:31-37**

Jesus went down to Capernaum, a town of Galilee, and began teaching the people at the sabbath meetings. They were astonished at the way he taught them, for his word was spoken with authority.

In the synagogue there was a man possessed by an evil spirit who shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I recognize you: you are the Holy One of God." Then Jesus said to him sharply, "Be silent and leave this man!" The evil spirit then threw the man down in front of them and came out of him without doing him harm.

Amazement seized all these people and they said to one another, "What does this mean? He commands the evil spirits with authority and power. He orders, and you see how they come out!" And news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Commentary

Social climbers have an intense drive to build their reputation. They believe even bad reputation brings lots of opportunities. Some commit crimes or spark controversies to get attention from the media, making themselves instant celebrities. Dirty politicians employ this, also those in the showbiz. Jesus is neither a politician nor an actor, yet he is known by a lot of people. When he opens his mouth, people listen to him intently. His courageous words and actions have a powerful impact on his audience and thus make him popular as a result. His reputation is not artificially induced. The gospel says his reputation keeps spreading. Why? Because he teaches with authority and shows his ability to confront evil.

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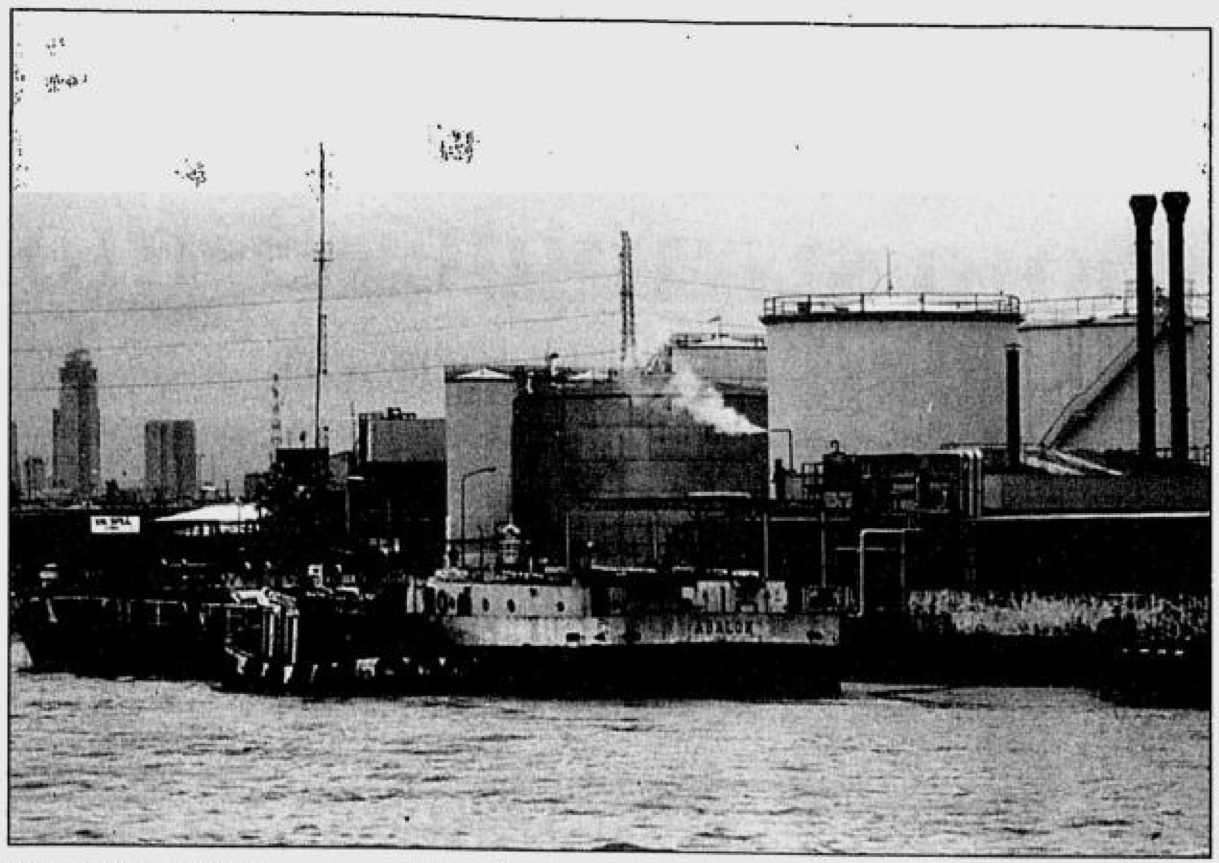
SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Quashal of a writ of attachment—There are only 2 ways of quashing a writ of attachment: (a) by filing a counterbond immediately; or (b) by moving to quash on the ground of improper and irregular issuance. These grounds for the dissolution of an attachment are fixed in Rule 57 of the Rules of Court and the power of the Court to dissolve an attachment is circumscribed by the grounds specified therein. Petitioner's motion to lift attachment failed to demonstrate any infirmity or defect in the issuance of the writ of attachment; neither did he file a counterbond. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, Chuidian v. Sandiganbayan (Fifth Division), G.R. No. 139941, January 19, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA



DANGER ZONE

EDWIN BACASMAS

The oil depot in Pandacan, Manila can cause "unimaginable" damage in case of an accidental fire or an act of terrorism, according to officials of the Bureau of Fire Protection. City officials say they already have a development plan for the site after the oil depot is relocated which, however, will take about three years.

Lacson might be jailed for lying

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SUPT. John Campos, former aide of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when he was still with the infamous Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF), has finally admitted to having had an affair with whistle-blower Mary "Rosebud" Ong.

Campos had denied that he and Ong ever went into a relationship other than being her "handler" when she was a civilian agent for PAOCTF.

It was ungentlemanly of Campos, to say the least, to deny being once a lover of the Chinese-Filipino beauty. Other Filipino males would have been proud being linked to Ong.

***

But Campos had to lie about his relationship with Ong. An admission would mean that Rosebud's allegations about his involvement in drug trafficking in the past are true.

The young police superintendent, a member of Philippine Military Academy Class 1987, was driven to a corner. His only escape was to deny the relationship. Or probably that was his line of thinking.

***

But he got himself in deeper trouble when he denied about the relationship only to admit it later. He was caught lying.

If he could lie about his relationship to Rosebud he could lie about his drug trafficking activities.

It's as simple as that.

***

Campos can't be blame for lying. He takes after his former boss, Sen. Panfilo Morena Lacson.

Lacson is a big liar who is consistently caught with his lies.

His first lie was when he said he hated politicians and that he would never run for a political office. Where's he now?

***

Another of Lacson's lie that was exposed was his denial that he ordered the bugging of Erap's political enemies when the former president was still in power.

He asked how he and his men could have done the phone-tapping when the bugging equipment was never bought.

It turned out the sophisticated bugging devices were bought in Germany using part of PAOCTF's intelligence fund.

Talagang napakasinungaling nitong si Lacson !

***

Lacson's in big trouble because of his denial that he tapped other people's phones.

When he uttered that lie he was under oath. Deliberately lying under oath is perjury, a criminal offense.

He may yet go to prison for an offense not related to his alleged involvement in kidnapping for ransom, drug trafficking and murders.

***

Lacson's perjury case reminds us of the gangster Al Capone of Chicago in the 1920s who was a bootlegger but who could not be pinned down by the US federal government.

He was too wise to be caught manufacturing liquor during Prohibition.

The gangster was eventually sent to prison on an offense not directly related to bootlegging: tax evasion.

***

Rosebud's allegations before the Senate that Camp Crame was a center for drug trafficking got a strong reaction from no less than Philippine National Police chief Leandro Mendoza. Mendoza said her statement was a sweeping generalization.

Mary Ong should have made it clear—very clear—that she was talking in the past tense—during Lacson's time as PNP chief.

And she should also have specified the particular office in Camp Crame where drug trafficking was taking place: the headquarters of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) of which Lacson was the concurrent chief. Even during Lacson's time most of the PNP was clean.

The citizenry should rest assured that Mendoza is sincere in his job. He is doing his best to cleanse the PNP of the vestiges of Lacson's shenanigans.

***

There is no reason for a total revamp of the PNP as the present leadership is doing its best to address the problem of graft and corruption within the ranks.

The call for a complete revamp comes from a shadowy group calling itself "Officers of the PNP Corps."

.If it's so cowardly as not to expose its members, why should the group's call be given much importance?

The Reform the Armed Forces (RAM) during Marcos' time was bold enough to expose its members. That's why it became a very effective and credible group. Why can't the so-called Officers of the PNP Corps do the same, if such a group exists.

***

I went around the big malls in Makati and Mandaluyong during the weekend and what I found was very reassuring.

I saw uniformed policemen moving around the crowded malls in two's.

One feels safe when he sees uniformed policemen in crowded places. Police presence deters crime.

Young mom strangles . . .

(From page A19)

"Or she may have been driven to it because of hunger," Merino said, adding that the Paniluans had nothing to eat for lunch yesterday.

The suspect's aunt, Francisca, 58, discovered the crime at 10:20 a.m. yesterday.

She left Paniluan and the baby about 8 a.m. to visit a neighbor. But when she returned, she found to her horror that her niece had killed the baby.

"The baby was on the bed, half covered with cloth," Francisca told the Inquirer. "Dailyn was sitting on the floor and was staring at him. They were alone in the house."

Francisca said Dailyn had been acting strange lately and that she often caught her just staring at the baby. She said Dailyn also did not speak to her when she asked her what happened.

"I don't know what led her to do it," Francisca said. "She did not hurt him before. She really loved Ezequiel. The only thing I noticed was that she often stared at him quietly in recent days."

Francisca said the boy was born out of an illicit relationship Dailyn had with her former employer in Pasay.

Police are still trying to find out if she was raped or if she consented to the relationship.

Francisca said she did not know the man's name or occupation. But she added Dailyn and the man are both from San Miguel, Leyte, where Dailyn's parents also live.

The Paniluans' neighbors told investigators that the man was married.

When Dailyn was nine months pregnant, her lover sent her away. She found her way to Francisca's house, police said.

Since then, Dailyn would go to the boy's father on the fifth day of every month to ask for financial help.

"But he gave a small amount, just enough for the baby's milk and food," Francisca said. "He gave nothing for Dailyn."

She said the man visited Dailyn last month.

"I told him to give her more when he visited her and his son last month," Francisca said.

The Inquirer tried to ask Dailyn what happened, but she remained speechless.

Merino said the young woman would be charged with infanticide. She faces the death penalty if found guilty, police said.

Policemen in shootout . . .

(From page A19)

wounds in the body and is under observation at the Parañaque Medical Center, investigators said.

Suspect PO1 Tony Bacud, a resident of West Service Road in Cupang and assigned to the administrative office of the Pasay City police, escaped after the shooting, police said.

Investigation by PO2 Rodolfo Motion Jr. of the Muntinlupa City Police Criminal Investigation Division said the two policemen were drinking with some of their friends when the shootout happened about 9:15 p.m. Sunday.

One of their drinking companions, Josel Cervantes Jr., noticed his wallet missing during the drinking session, police said.

A drunken Bacud accused Tercero of stealing the wallet, sparking an argument between the two during which Bacud drew his service 9 mm pistol and fired at Tercero, police said.

Tercero's companions rushed him to the hospital while Bacud escaped.

Judy-Piolo film too hot for Pasig man

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

WHO would have thought Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual together could stir sexy thoughts?

The show biz twosome proved to be too hot for a Pasig resident who was jailed yesterday for masturbating inside a moviehouse while watching "Bakit Di Totohanin" starring Judy Ann and Piolo.

Herman Reyes, 29, of Barangay Kalawaan in Pasig City, is now being held at the Pasig detention cell on charges of public scandal.

Reyes was taken to the police station by a security guard of the Ever Gotesco Cinema in Pasig City on Sunday night, still high over Judy Ann's romantic scenes with Piolo.

Insp. Antonio Paulite, chief of the Pasig Criminal Investigation Division, said Reyes was still fondling himself when the security guard arrested him at 10:45 p.m. Sunday.

Reyes, who caught the last full show of "Bakit Di Totohanin," was reported to the cinema security by the woman sitting beside him.

The woman told authorities that Reyes started to unzip his pants during the movie's romantic scenes.

She said she tried to ignore him but could not take it anymore when Reyes began fondling himself during a kissing scene in the movie.

The woman hurriedly left the moviehouse and reported the incident to the security guard, who caught Reyes.

Malonzo proclaimed today

BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE COMMISSION on Elections is set to proclaim today reelectionist Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo and all the city's winning councilors, three and a half months after the May 14 elections.

The Comelec en banc ordered the Caloocan City board of canvassers to proclaim Malonzo and all winning candidates in Caloocan after the camp of challenger Luis "Baby" Asistio failed to question an earlier ruling by the poll body dismissing Asistio's petition to declare a failure of elections.

The proclamation is to be held anytime today at the Comelec session hall. Comelec National Capital Region Director Ferdinand Rafanan, who also sits as chair of the Caloocan board of canvassers, will preside over the proclamation.

Chair Alfredo Benipayo on Aug. 17 issued an order dismissing Asistio's petition after four commissioners, including himself, voted against the draft resolution penned by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco granting the petition.

Before the weekend, however, Tancangco questioned the legality of Benipayo's order, saying it violated en banc procedures. Tancangco said the majority should have penned a new resolution so that her draft resolution would become a dissenting opinion.

She noted that only Benipayo signed the en banc order dismissing Asistio's petition.

The Comelec earlier proclaimed Rep. Ernani Echiverri after the Supreme Court ruled in his favor.

Former Manila councilor dies

FORMER Manila Councilor Karlo Q. Butiong, of Lian, Batangas and San Andres, Manila, died of a heart attack on Sept. 1. He was 42.

He is survived by his mother Luz, children Karlene and Matt, brother Ronald, sister-in-law Melissa, niece Andrea and nephew Rafael.

His remains lie at 1607 Dagonoy St., San Andres, Manila. Burial will be on Thursday, Sept. 6, at the Manila South Cemetery at 2 p.m.

Butiong was the city council's majority floor leader in 1992. When he did not run for reelection in 1995, he was appointed administrator of the Intramuros Administration (IA) by then President Fidel V. Ramos.

A necrological service is scheduled to be held at the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlungsod from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday before the burial, according to Vice Mayor Danilo Lacuna.

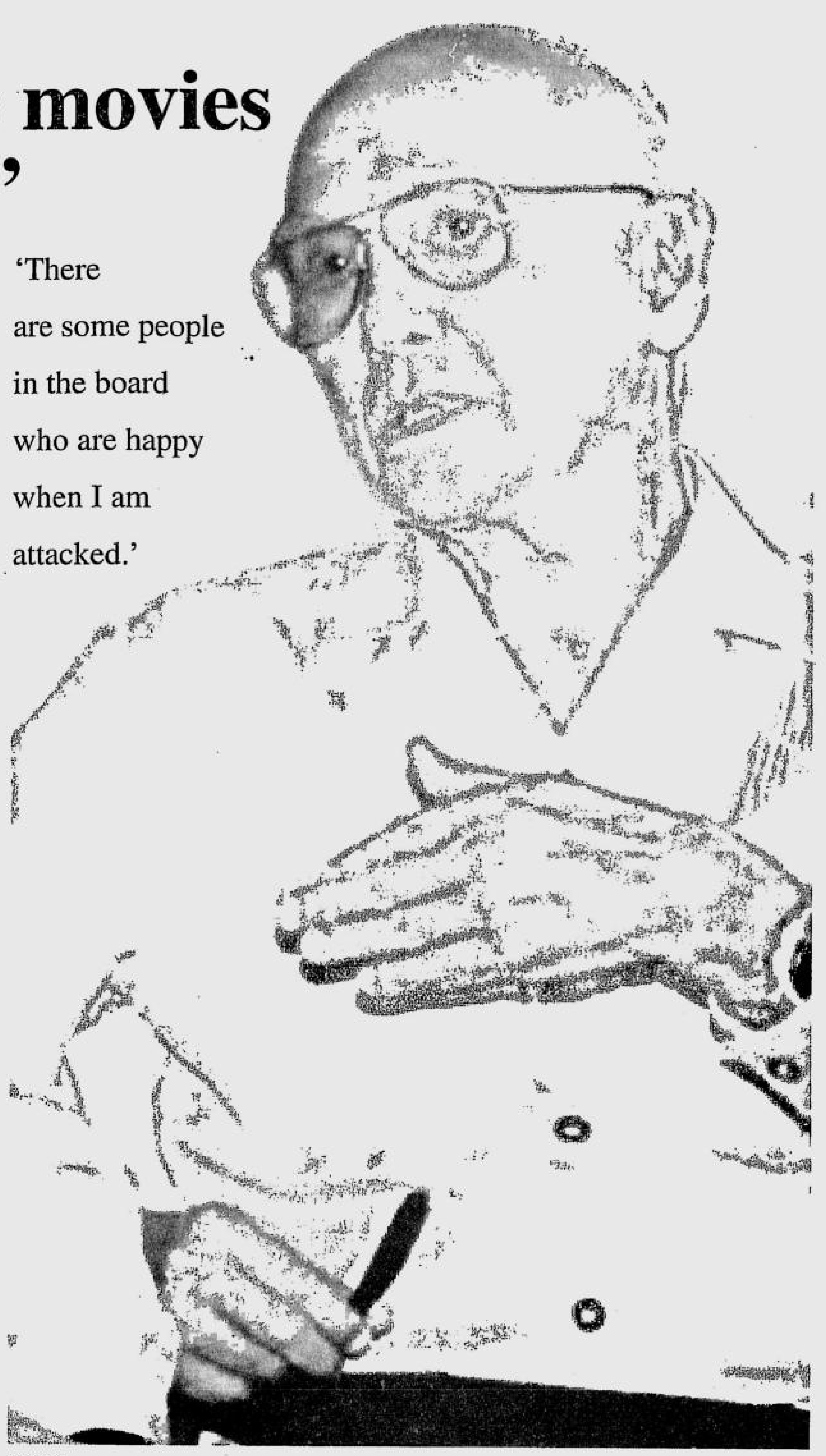
Palo reunion

ALUMNI of the Sacred Heart Seminary in Palo, Leyte living in Metro Manila and nearby provinces will have a reunion on Saturday, Sept. 8, at the Santo Niño de Leyte Shrine on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. The reunion coincides with the celebration of Seminary Day which falls on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Registration starts at 2 p.m.

Alumni may get in touch with Osmundo Orlanes at 931-3586 or 932-6653, or Romy Florencio, 427-1256.

MTRCB CHAIR ALEJANDRO ROCES

The quality of Filipino movies is 'very, very, very low'



ROCES

'There are some people in the board who are happy when I am attacked.'

JUST three months into office as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), Alejandro Roces—former education secretary, short story writer, and creator of a new zarzuela—is being accused of causing the current slump in the Philippine movie industry.

Perhaps he is being blamed because he was appointed into office after the controversial resignation of his predecessor Nicanor Tiongson during the scandal over the Joey Reyes sex movie "Live Show."

The sharp-witted, nimble Roces denies this and other charges with the deftness and dexterity of a man half his age. "I may not always be right," he says with a chuckle, "but at least I'm never wrong."

Q & A

Why did you accept the position of MTRCB chair?

Let me tell you the circumstances. I was the closest friend of President Macapagal, the father, till the day that he died. I was the youngest member of his Cabinet, as secretary of education. All the other Cabinet members had a *rigodon* of positions, but I was never touched for four years.

After he died, I was the closest friend of his wife, Doña Eva.

I am chair of the College Assurance Plan (CAP). It's one of the biggest corporations in the Philippines. We have 60 buildings all over the country, not just offices, and we are growing by about three or four buildings a year.

President Macapagal, the daughter, called me up and said, "I have a big problem and everybody says you're the only one who can solve it."

I don't want the dad to say that when his daughter came up to me, I said no. So I accepted the position.

The next day, Conrad de Quiros wrote, "Anding Roces is so desperate for a job." That is pure nonsense. I don't know how he can say that. He has never attacked me before. A few weeks later, he wrote again, "Even if Anding Roces lives 50 lifetimes, he will not be an artist." Why will anybody say anything like that about me for no reason at all? *Para 'kong namamatay ng gutom.*

I never knew De Quiros and I never met him from Adam. I don't need a job. That's the last thing I should be looking for.

But you also came out on the front page of the INQUIRER the day after you were appointed?

Yeah, but that was straight news.

I came across an entire section, praising (Nick) Tiongson to high heavens ("Playtime" in the INQUIRER Lifestyle section).

Probably the criticisms are because you were appointed as censors chief after the very controversial resignation of Nick Tiongson?

Yeah, but why does he take it out on me?

Behn Cervantes also came out with a statement after I was appointed. He said, "Anding Roces is too old. It is not a generation gap. It is many generations gap."

Do you feel a generation gap while you're talking to me now? We are talking about the subject and it does not involve generations.

After that write-up, several tabloid writers referred to me as "*Lolo* Anding." *'Pag ganyan na* synchronized, *may konduktor yan.*

I know who. Behn Cervantes. But I'm not saying he is paying these writers. I don't know him from Adam.

All I know is that he is very sickly. He's got diabetes and he had just been operated on in the prostate. *Isang pitik ko lang diyan, wala na 'yan.*

Do you think there's a campaign to make you quit?

Yeah, but I don't know the person who is behind it. But I know there are people who are interested in my position.

I just got a call from the Vice President (Teofisto Guingona) and he wants to appoint me to a Unesco position. He wants to know if I will accept and I know why he's doing that. It's not good to appoint people who will refuse and when you appoint another guy who accepts, everybody will say, "That fellow accepted the position that Anding refused."

What else are you dealing with as chair of the MTRCB?

Let me explain why all these attacks are crazy. I respected the old board of Tiongson.

This is how it works. Three people from the board review a movie. If two accept it, it is approved. If two reject it, it is disapproved.

Now if it is disapproved, you can appeal and a second review committee of five members watches it. If three accept it, it is approved. If the movie is still disapproved after the second review, you can appeal it to Malacañang.

As chair, I just go with the decision of the board. I don't watch a movie. My signature there is ministerial.

Manoling Morato, during his time, tried to turn the decision of the board and the Supreme Court told him he could not.

Like what happened to "Red Diaries." They wanted you to order the pullout of the movie from the theaters, but you can't do that.

In that case, it was the PNP (Philippine National Police) pressuring me, but I refused. I warned them not to fuss about it. They did. You know what happened. The movie made money. The number of people watching it increased. The minute it becomes controversial, a movie will make money.

"Live Show" was not making money until it became controversial. They've been blaming me for the banning of "Live Show." I had nothing to do with that. The movie was appealed to Malacañang and it was Gloria who banned it.

What recent Filipino movie have you seen in full?

I saw some here just to get a feel of the local movies. For instance, they banned a bold movie and you could see it was done without a script. They got a girl who was made to undress every 15 minutes. That's without exaggeration. First she is shown taking a bath. After 15 minutes, she takes a bath again and a man is shown peeping.

The dialog of "Live Show" is something else. The girl is a prostitute and she tells her children, *"Lahat kayo nanggaling sa p—e ko at p—e ko ang nagpapakain sa inyo."*

I will tell you how movies came into my life to contrast it with the way it came into your lives.

We were told one day, "Today we are going to go to a theater but we have to prepare you because what you will see are not live men in the theater, but pictures that move." So I wondered, how could a picture move?

When we entered the theater, it was true. The pictures moved. That's why it was called moving pictures. A few years later, the pictures started to talk. That was the way movies developed slowly.

I was the one who started giving awards to movies. I was the chair of the Maria Clara awards.

What was the last quality film that you saw?

"Rizal" by (Marilou Diaz) Abaya.

You don't approve of nudity on the big screen? But we have to move with the times. What if the times say it's all right to show some naked bodies?

Yes, it is all right to show naked bodies if they have something to do with the story. But if they are there only to arouse, that's different. You may see a man masturbating beside you inside the theater while watching the movie.

When a film gets disapproved, the people blame you. They look at you as the board.

I get the attack, not the members of the board. But there are some people in the board who are happy when I am attacked.

Do you feel that your job is worth all the trouble you get?

When Gloria came to me, this is what came to my mind because the dad was my best friend. Let it not be said by the father who is in the next world that the first time his daughter came to me, I said no. What kind of a friend would I be if I did that?

But this is what many people do not know. There is a penal code that tells you what you can see in the movies and what you can't. There is Presidential Decree 1986 telling us what we can show.

Our main job is to classify a movie and determine whether it's for the whole family or for adults only or for a certain age. The others are censored and classified pornographic.

All over the world, there are pornographic films, but the difference is they have places to show the films. They can tell you where to go if you want to see a pornographic film. We don't have that here.

Can good acting save a pornographic movie? What can redeem a so-called pornographic movie?

If it was not made to be pornographic. The pornography was necessary to drive the point of the movie, but there must be a redeeming factor.

What do you see of the movie industry right now? People are saying the industry is dying.

Nestor Torre wrote a series about the industry and he mentioned how many movies are produced in a given year. When I came in, they said the industry was in the dumps because of me.

Do you implement ridiculous rules?

No. In fact, we are revising the rules.

Are there any provisions that you think are ridiculous?

The provisions are not ridiculous, but they can sometimes be imposed ridiculously. If anything, it may lean over backward for the movie industry. That's why I was asking, should there be any representative of the movie industry in the board? The answer is yes, although there is danger there of conflict of interest.

The only thing is to strike a balance, sobriety. I may not always be right, but at least I'm never wrong (Laughs).

Do you think watching Filipino films is the last priority of the public now?

Even before the war, when you discussed Filipino films, they would say, *"Para sa bakya 'yan."*

Now, even the *bakya* is educated and they prefer American movies because they get more for their money.

I warned them not to fuss about ('Red Diaries'). They did. You know what happened. The movie made money. The minute it becomes controversial, a movie will make money. 'Live Show' was not making money until it became controversial

Are you saying that we have low quality movies?

Very, very, very low.

Now, the economic situation is bad. The priority of the poor people are food, clothing, shelter and education. The last priority is entertainment.

Movies today cost P100 and most of the time, you don't watch alone. So rather than spend P200 for the movies, you will just buy food.

Piracy is killing the movie industry.

Yes. You can buy a pirated VCD for only P60. In the slums, they buy a pirated VCD, show it in the neighborhood and charge P1 each. That's their only means of entertainment.

What are you afraid of as chair of the board? Are you afraid of anyone?

I'm not a prude, but we are discussing what can be shown in the movies. One of the criteria that I use in judging a movie is if my wife, my grandchildren, my neighbors can see the movie.

I don't want people telling me what I can see or cannot see.

After "Live Show" appeared and a 64-year-old man saw it, he raped a girl in the neighborhood. That's too much of a coincidence.

How will you describe your board?

I think it's a fair board.

I think it was Leo Tolstoy who said that there should be a line between art and morality.

Have you committed a mistake as MTRCB chair?

Honestly, I don't recall making a mistake, but if I do make a mistake and discover it, I will be the first one to acknowledge it and I will not be mad at the person who points it out to me.

What can you say about the 20 percent tax increase on entertainers?

That's not in our domain. But in these times, they are the biggest earners.

Where do you see the movie industry 10 years from now?

We are entering the information age so when you say movies, I think the movies will continue but they will be shown in TV screens or private residences. Because for less than a hundred bucks, you can get a VCD of the movie and watch it inside your house, where more people can see it.

Can you say that TV is a more thriving medium than the movies?

Definitely. The best proof of that is to see how TV changed or captured the whole public imagination during the impeachment trial and everybody forgot about those telenovelas. That is the power of TV.

Amalia Muhlach came up to me and complained that someone told her *"mukha siyang pek—k,"* on a live TV show. I don't even know what *pek—k* means!

What do you tell your critics?

I want to make a distinction. You always have two kinds of critics. One are the sincere critics who have their honest opinion of you, even if they disagree with you. I respect those critics.

I believe the criticism that I have been getting in the media—radio, TV and print—is the result of envelopmental journalism and people who are interested in my position. If you don't agree with me, that's okay. Anybody can disagree with me without being disagreeable. We can differ, but let's not be difficult.

Honest criticism I'll accept. But paid criticism, you can forget it.

What about the allegation that some members of the board are being paid?

That is always a possibility. That is the same problem that I had to tackle about this movie with policemen. The movie didn't say that all policemen are corrupt.

There may be a few corrupt board members. As a general rule, most professions here are clean. There are doctors who are corrupt, but most doctors are honest. Most lawyers are honest.

What's the boldest movie you've ever seen, in terms of sex?

I really don't know. You know the greatest enemy of being aroused sexually is laughter.

Do you have any vice?

I drink red wine with my meals. My doctor told me that's good for the heart. I live a very simple life. I've been to the disco only once.

I'm 77 years old but I still love to work. I go to the CAP office in the morning, then write my column, then to the MTRCB Office. I'm there everyday, contrary to reports to I'm not seen there everyday.

What is occupying my time now is a musical-comedy that I'm writing based on my book, "Something to Crow About," a collection of short stories on cockfighting.

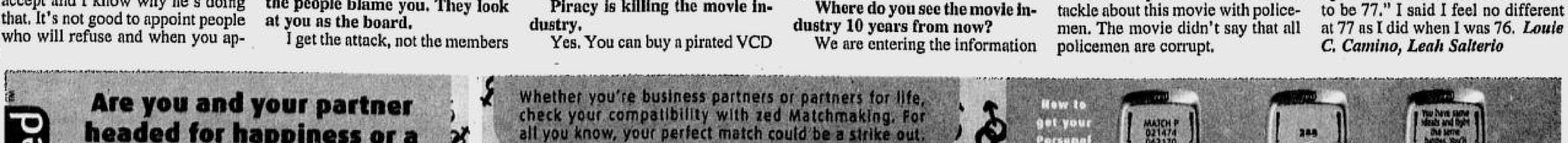
I changed it later to an English zarzuela. Now it's a Filipino zarzuela. The Cultural Center of the Philippines called me up and they are interested in providing the composers, lyricists and choreographers.

That's what keeps me going. I'm always occupied.

Do you work out?

I wake up at 5:30, then I jog for more than an hour. I'm always active mentally and physically. If you climb up Mount Apo, you can see a sign there when I went up there when I was secretary of education in the '60s.

When I turned 77 a few weeks ago, I was asked, "How does it feel to be 77." I said I feel no different at 77 as I did when I was 76. *Louie C. Camino, Leah Salterio*



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1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
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3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	SHREK
8	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	MOULIN ROUGE
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SEX MEDUSA
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE
6	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	SHREK
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	SEX EDUCATION
2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
3	SHREK
4	A KNIGHT'S TALE
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
8	SHREK
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	A KNIGHT'S TALE
5	SHREK
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

DIGITAL dts SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	A KNIGHT'S TALE
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
10	SEX MEDUSA
11	SEX EDUCATION
12	SHREK

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
6	PLANET OF THE APES
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	A KNIGHT'S TALE
9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SEX EDUCATION

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

SM CEBU
2313816

1	SHREK
2	ANIMAL
3	ONE NIGHT AT MC COOLS
4	KAMASUTRA 2001
5	VENUS
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	RADYO
2	CLOSED
3	SHREK
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	ANIMAL
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	CLOSED
8	CATS & DOGS

SM PAMPANGA
7138015

1	SHREK
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT
8294915

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM DAVAO

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	A KNIGHT'S TALE (Sneak Preview)

GLORIETTA 4

1	SHREK in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE (Sneak Preview) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	PLANET OF THE APES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND — Art Film
5	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	A KNIGHT'S TALE (Sneak Preview) in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE! SEPT. 16, 21 & 22 - 9PM Onstage

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1	RUSH HOUR 2 THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE (Sneak Preview) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
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1 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	KNIGHT'S TALE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 ([illegible])	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 ([illegible])	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 ([illegible])	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	
3 (DTS)	BROTHERHOOD
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2 (DTS)	SEX EDUCATION
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SEX EDUCATION

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX EDUCATION

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE
6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	RESERVE
8	RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
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Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

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2	BROTHERHOOD
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Spring
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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
A	SEX EDUCATION

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SEX EDUCATION
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	PLANET OF THE APES
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	SEX MEDUSA
9	VENUS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS
5 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	KAMASUTRA 3
Lords	KABIYAK
Jennet	RESERVE

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SHREK
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	A KNIGHT'S TALE

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX EDUCATION

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SEX EDUCATION

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
2 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
4	SHREK

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	SHREK
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	A KNIGHT'S TALE

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	TOM CATS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	BEDROOM SECRET
4 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4	IRA
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SHREK
3	IRA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	IRA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	SHREK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	IRA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	IRA
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	COOL DUDES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	CRAZY BEAUTIFUL
4 (DTS EX)	PLANET OF THE APES

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

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1 THX	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SHREK
3	BRIDGIT JONE'S DIARY
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

ERMITA
536-7809 TO 12

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
3	SHREK
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 to 31

1	RESERVED
2	SHREK
3	RESERVED
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES

IMUS
(046) 471-6166

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0463

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	ANIMAL
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

SOON TO OPEN

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SAN FERNANDO PAMPANGA
ILOILO

THX dts SDDS DOLBY DOLBY STEREO

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	RADYO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SEX EDUCATION
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ARAY/ OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	RUSH HOUR 2
ODEON-2	SEX EDUCATION
ROBEN	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RUSH HOUR 2
QUEZON-1	RUSH HOUR 2
REMAR	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
REMAR-2	SEX EDUCATION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	JAPAN ANIME' FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-3	RADYO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
CINEMA-8	IRA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SHREK
CINEMA-12	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE S DIARY
CINEMA-2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	FIGHTING BACK
CINEMA-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
CINEMA-4	HAYOP SA GANDA

Abunda interviews foundation executive

"PRIVATE Conversations with Boy Abunda," which airs Wednesday, 9 to 10 p.m. on ANC News Channel, will guest Gina Lopez tomorrow night.

Lopez is the managing director of the ABS-CBN Foundation. She is also the president of Bayan Foundation.

Among her pet projects are the Save the La Mesa Watershed Project of Bantay Kalikasan, the Children's Village of Bantay Bata Foundation and the Poverty Alleviation Project of Bayan Foundation.

"Private Conversations with Boy Abunda" features individuals who have made an impact on their chosen field.

Among those whom Abunda has interviewed on the show are New Age guru Deepak Chopra, Kris Aquino, Vicky Belo, Inno Sotto, Rajo Laurel, Sis. Christine Tan, Maria Ressa, Mon Tulfo, Joker Arroyo, Nene Pimentel, Gringo Honasaa, Alberto Romulo, Ani Desierto, Senators Robert Barbers and Serge Osmeña.

Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had her first studio interview after assuming the presidency on "Private Conversations."

The show is directed by Bobby Garcia. Executive producer is Nikka Santos.

I came . . .

(From page A23)

of the song to aptly describe their situation.

I suddenly turned nostalgic when Martin approached me in the audience and sang portions of "Forevermore." He introduced me to the audience and I teased him, "I'm here as a proxy for Pops." He retorted, "Oops! Don't say the P word. Not yet."

It was good to see Martin fully recovered from the setbacks in his career and personal life. How humble of him to admit on stage that night: "I'm thankful that Maxi Media gave me new wings to fly. They were there for me when the phone stopped ringing."

Martin's one-liners and witty comments would make any stand-up comic seem like an amateur. After the show, I'm sure the rest of the audience went home feeling they had just become friends of Martin that night. As for me, I came to watch him as a friend and ended up being his fan as well.

Thank you, Mart, for taking music and not yourself so seriously. It's your ability to laugh at yourself that endears you all the more to your audience. Your jokes remind us all to take life lightly. Your songs make us value love deeply.

'Talk TV' vs 'Sis'

ABS-CBN'S "Talk TV" has no reason to be alarmed by the emergence of "Sis," its rival show on GMA 7.

The latest survey shows that "Sis" only garnered a 9.3 percent rating/24.5 audience share, while "Talk TV" has 21 percent rating/55.4 audience share. To think that these numbers were registered during the week "Sis" premiered.

Looks like Janice and Gelli de Belen have to work harder to get their sister act together.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Out of their depth

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE trust that our TV people won't take the points we raise in this piece in a completely negative way, but it must be said that, now that local news and public affairs shows are trying to go beyond mere reportage, the works of quite a number of on-camera news talents leaves a lot to be desired.

Without going down to the level of nitpicking and personal affront, we observe that, in covering important official occasions and breaking news, many on-camera people falter, try too hard, or are otherwise obviously out of their depth.

When some of them criticize public officials, they can be seathing and hyper-critical. However, their own performance is sometimes amateurish, lacking in research, background and context, and long on style and short on substance and genuine understanding of the issues involved.

Thus, just as some on-camera news people give officials failing marks, so do they too get a low score from the officials who have to put up with their slipshod, ill-informed or kneejerk questions.

This used to be not very obvious when TV news activities were pretty much limited to reporting the news. Of late, however, some TV news departments have embarked on the very laudable move to provide in-depth analysis, multi-pronged sourcing of opinions related to an issue, qualitative comparison of divergent views, etc.

While these are positive steps in expanding and deepening viewers' understanding of complex issues and news events, these new initiatives are also difficult to pull off, and some on-camera news talents need further training in order to measure up to their heightened demands.

That little such training has been provided is obvious in the deficient coverage and nervous handling of a number of important events, like the elections, Edsa II and III, the impeachment hearings, the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking and the war in Mindanao, and the current Senate hearings.

We hope that the news and public affairs departments of our TV channels won't simply pooh-pooh these observations away. Fact is, quite a number of viewers have seen through our channels' "*porma*" polish and are looking for better, more informed and more professional work in TV news coverage, analysis and interviews.

Better training must be provided for on-camera news talents so they won't have to *pretend* to be knowledgeable and insightful. Some people who are untrainable may have to be given less demanding assignments.

In any case, improvements have to be made before some TV news people's limitations or downright incompetence become too obvious to be covered up.

Trouble is, who will do the retraining? News, public affairs and TV experts must be found to show new or established news talents how they can do their work in a truly professional manner, with no fudging or pretense.

Since the TV camera is never supposed to lie, the truth *will* come out. Our TV channels must make sure that, when the truth does come out, it is in its on-camera talents' favor.

Destiny's Child on Channel [V] Int'l.

THIS month, Channel [V] Int'l. throws its "Chosen One" spotlight on Destiny's Child. On Thursday, Sept. 6 at 5 p.m., VJ **Asha** goes to Japan to meet up with the popular trio in "An Audience with Destiny's Child." During the show, fans from all over Asia ask **Beyoncé**, **Kelly** and **Michelle** some intimate questions.

On Friday, Sept. 7 at 2 p.m., the channel airs the special concert, "Destiny's Child, Live at the Horden." On Saturday, Sept. 15 at 7 p.m., the group goes on "Speakeasy" to talk about its goals, etc.

Finally, on Tuesday, Sept. 18 at 2 p.m., the group performs in the special, "Destiny's Child, Live in Germany."

I came to watch Martin as a friend and went away as a fan

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I'M A music freak and my radio is on 24 hours a day. Even my dreams seem to have their own soundtrack.

For the past weeks I've been hearing the radio plug of "Martin Live Onstage" concert. It's touted as the longest running concert series. As **Martin Nievera** himself puts it, "Even our extension has been extended!"

The plug also says, "It's the show everyone is talking about!"

It piqued my curiosity. What else could the Concert King come up with that he has not done before? Memories of the unguarded moments I've had with Martin and **Pops (Fernandez)** ran through my mind. The surprise parties. The Japanese dinners. The golf tournament among friends. The birthday parties of **Robin** and **Ram**. Etc.

After their separation, I never had the chance to talk to Martin, but as a friend I've always wished him well. I know that Martin knows this.

When people ask me whose side I'm on, Martin or Pops, I just smile and say, "They may be estranged but parts of them will always stay on the same side and that's where I am too."

It's quite a funny feeling when you watch a friend perform. You see things that others don't. You know things that others don't.

I was surprised to see a full house at Greenbelt's Onstage theater on a Thursday night. I thought to myself, this show must really be something.

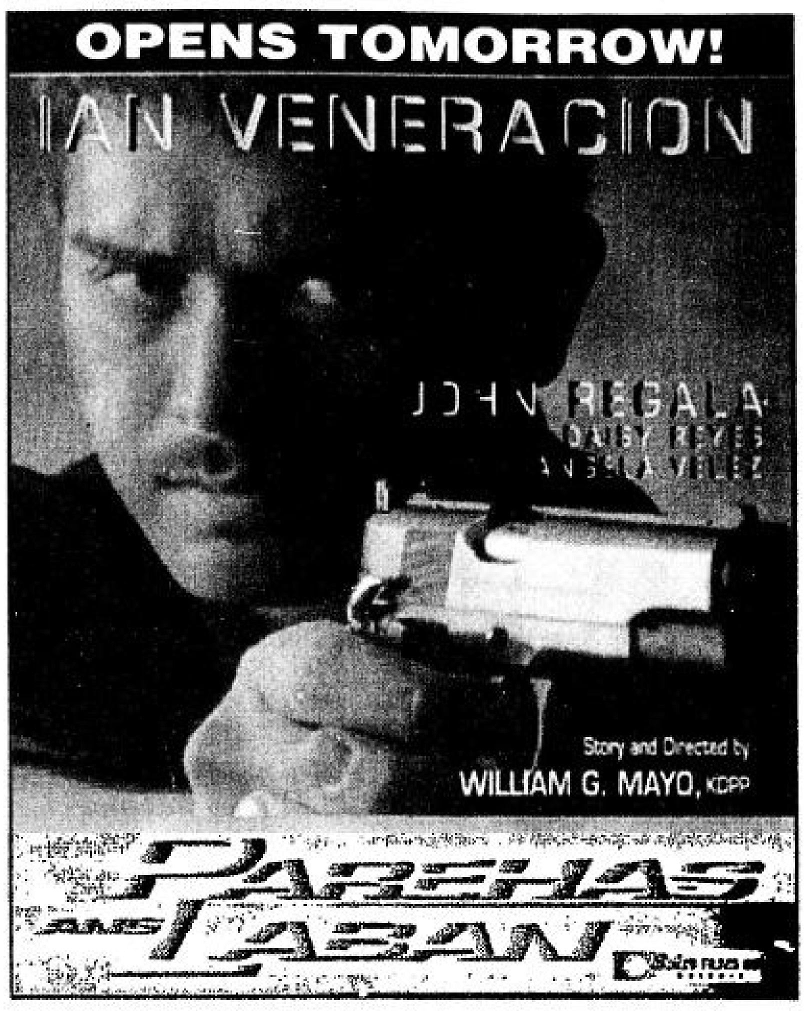
I was not mistaken. Martin Nievera was in his element that night. The Concert King is absolutely right in saying that he is "possessed" by his music even after 19 years of performing. How could anyone possibly sing his heart out for almost three hours non-stop, with an encore to boot?

Martin gave his all to each song. What set the show apart from all his other concerts was that he really made an intimate connection with his audience. He thrilled his fans by sitting right beside them and asking them personal questions. He serenaded them and rephrased song lyrics for them.

One touching moment of the show came when he sang the **James Ingram** hit "There's No Easy Way" in answer to all the questions about Pops and him. He changed some words

I CAME/ A22

OPENS TOMORROW!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BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	PLANET OF HE APES - P 13 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45

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Language: Mandarin with English subtitles

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Studio 23 is celebrating its fifth year with launch after launch of the biggest, hottest new shows and new seasons.

The Others

From the mind of Steven Spielberg comes a frightening, dark and edgy series about a secret society of gifted individuals who share an extrasensory ability to reach beyond this world.

** Premieres tonight at 8:30 pm*

Popular

The much-awaited teen hit is back to continue its masterful blend of surreal comedy and poignant drama. Join Brooke and Sam as they face the "rigors" of high school life with attitude and style.

** Premieres tonight at 7:30 pm*

Scariest Places on Earth

Real people. Real places. Real terror. Watch real families travel to the darkest corners of the world to experience frightening places like the Axe Murder House, Italy's Fortress of Blood and more.

** Premieres Sept. 5, Wednesday at 7:30 pm*

Early Edition

Kyle Chandler stars as the man who receives tomorrow's newspaper today. The highly rated and long-running show is heading for its final run.

** Premieres Sept 15, Saturday at 7:30 pm*

Dark Angel

A certified sci-fi/action hit from James Cameron, director of Terminator 2 and Titanic. Star on the rise Jessica Alba plays a genetically engineered soldier on the run from her creators.

> Best New Television Dramatic Series - 27TH Annual People's Choice Awards

> Break out star of the year [Jessica Alba] - TV Guide Awards

** Premieres Sept. 17, Monday at 8 pm*

Temptation Island

4 couples test their devotion. 26 singles chosen to tempt them. 12 days to indulge desire. Who will give in? It's one of the hottest, most talked about reality game shows... and best of all it's a top-rater in the U.S.

** Premieres Sept. 30, Sunday at 9:30 pm*

The District

A hot new drama about a crime fighter whose revolutionary tactics makes him the perfect crime buster in Washington D.C. Starring Craig T. Nelson, this series has consistently been the number one Saturday evening program in the U.S.

** Premieres Oct. 3, Wednesday at 8:30 pm*

Survivor 3: Africa

Get set for the biggest event of the year -the Philippine TV premiere of one of the all-time biggest hits worldwide... the reality-based game show that started it all! Catch it just a day after its initial U.S. showing.

** Premieres Oct. 12, Friday at 7:30 pm*

Veronica's Closet

Emmy, Golden Globe and People's Choice Award winner Kirstie Alley returns as everyone's favorite "authority on romance."

** Premieres Oct. 14, Sunday at 8:30 pm*

Jenny Jones

A talk show for those looking for a different kind of noontime entertainment. With attention-grabbing topics like "You Think You're Hot, But A Model? You're Not!" and "You Laughed At My Body, Now I'm wA Hottie!," you wouldn't want to miss this!

Premieres October 16, Tuesday at 9:30 pm

Just Shoot Me

The critically acclaimed comedy is back! Catch the Blush Magazine gang as they turn the world of fashion upside down with their brand of biting humor.

** Premieres October 16, Tuesday at 9:30 pm*

Bewitched

Primetime Classics brings back a comedy about the strange yet hilarious union of witches and ordinary folks. Before the Halliwells charmed the country, we first got Bewitched.

** Premieres Oct. 18, Thursday at 7 pm*

Don't miss the latest additions to the primetime programming that makes STUDIO 23 COOL TV

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Gov't to hire import inspector anew

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE GOVERNMENT is set to hire an import inspector again, but this time the private sector will pay for the service.

Societe General de Surveillance, the country's former pre-shipment inspection firm, has already submitted a proposal to the Department of Finance to resume its operations at the Bureau of Customs.

The offer of the Swiss firm and the proposals of other companies were being evaluated by the government in response to the clamor of the private sector to hire an import inspector anew, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

The selection will be done through a competitive bidding, Camacho added.

"But if we were to engage the services of a pre-shipment inspector, the importers will have to pay for it," the finance chief pointed out.

The new set-up wherein the private sector will shoulder the pre-shipment obligations was proposed by business groups such as the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During the 12 years that SGS handled the pre-shipment for the Bureau of Customs, the government paid for the services of the Swiss firm. In fact, the government has yet to settle about P1 billion in obligations incurred from January to March last year.

The government did not renew the Swiss inspector's $100-million, 12-year contract and allowed the Bureau of Customs to take over the import inspection.

During the time of President Estrada, then Finance Secretary Jose Pardo was counting on an "honesty system" for importers to pay the correct taxes for the importations that they declared at the Customs.

Business groups believed that without a third-party import-surveillance firm, smuggling could worsen as importers could deliberately or unwittingly misdeclare the value of their imports as there was no verification of the receipts abroad.

During the time of Pardo, the Customs accredited 120 top importing companies for the "super green lane." Importers using this lane simply declared their imports and the Customs would have to honor their statements.

In exchange for the trust, the government could audit any of the accredited companies at factory site and that any misdeclaration would be exposed to the media and the company was to be blacklisted.

Pardo had said that after 12 years and a contract of P30 billion, the government then believed that SGS should have already transferred its technology to the country.

The contract of Swiss-based SGS that lapsed in December 1999 was extended up to March 2000 to give the government time to take over the pre-shipment inspection.

SGS, for its part, had said it has generated P67.82 billion in additional revenue for the government since its contract began in 1987.

The Philippine contract—which the Geneva-based company said was the largest of its 30 government contracts—was worth $100 million a year.

Even during his time, Pardo felt there were four factors that could hinder the success of the Customs program. "There is SGS, there are others who wants the job of SGS, there are those who earn on the side because of SGS, and there are those who want the job of a customs commissioner," he noted.

The Bureau of Customs is now basing its pre-shipment inspection on transaction value from home consumption value. Transaction value is the process of valuing imports based on the requirements imposed by the World Trade Organization.

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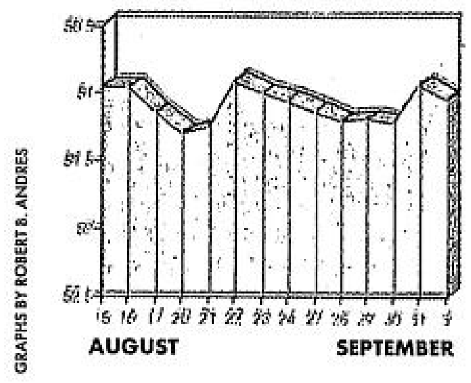

Peso-Dollar Rate

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As of 5 p.m.,
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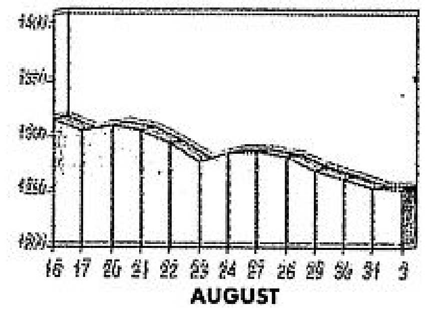
STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks near 11-month low

SHARES prices closed 0.9-percent lower yesterday in lackluster trade, with investors unloading blue chips, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 11.83 points to 1,253.61, its lowest in nearly 11 months.

Analysts said many investors were not pleased by a government announcement last week of 3.3 percent gross domestic product (GDP) growth in the second quarter of the year.

"The economic data was not very well taken, despite the fact that the figures were much better than expected," said Warren Chua of Mercantile Securities Corp. "Anyone can feel the bite of the economic crunch and there's no one to say otherwise."

Traders said lawmakers' seeming preoccupation with political investigations rather than passing key economic reform measures was also damping investor sentiment.

Congress is carrying out lengthy hearings on allegations of links between drug dealers and some figures in the previous government as well as allegations that military officials have accepted bribes from Muslim guerrillas. *AFP, AP*

T-bill rates mixed

AN improved economic outlook coupled with continued threats of rejection from the government brought treasury bill rates down yesterday except for the six-month debt notes which rose by 2.2 basis points.

Yields of the 91- and the 364-day treasury bills slid by 5.5 points and by 13.1 points to 9.521 percent and 12.819 percent, respectively. The rate of the 182-day debt papers settled at 11.962 percent.

"I expect the rates to stay at this range next week. Otherwise, we will say goodbye to their bids because we still have a healthy cash position," National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said yesterday.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said he would also decide within this week as to when the government would finally issue $500 million worth of 10-year global bonds and whether the debt notes would be sold through a public offering or a private placement.

Camacho said the government was still prepared to borrow another $130 million on behalf of National Power Corp. The state-run power firm had mandated US bank Bear Sterns to handle a $400-million, seven-year private placement.

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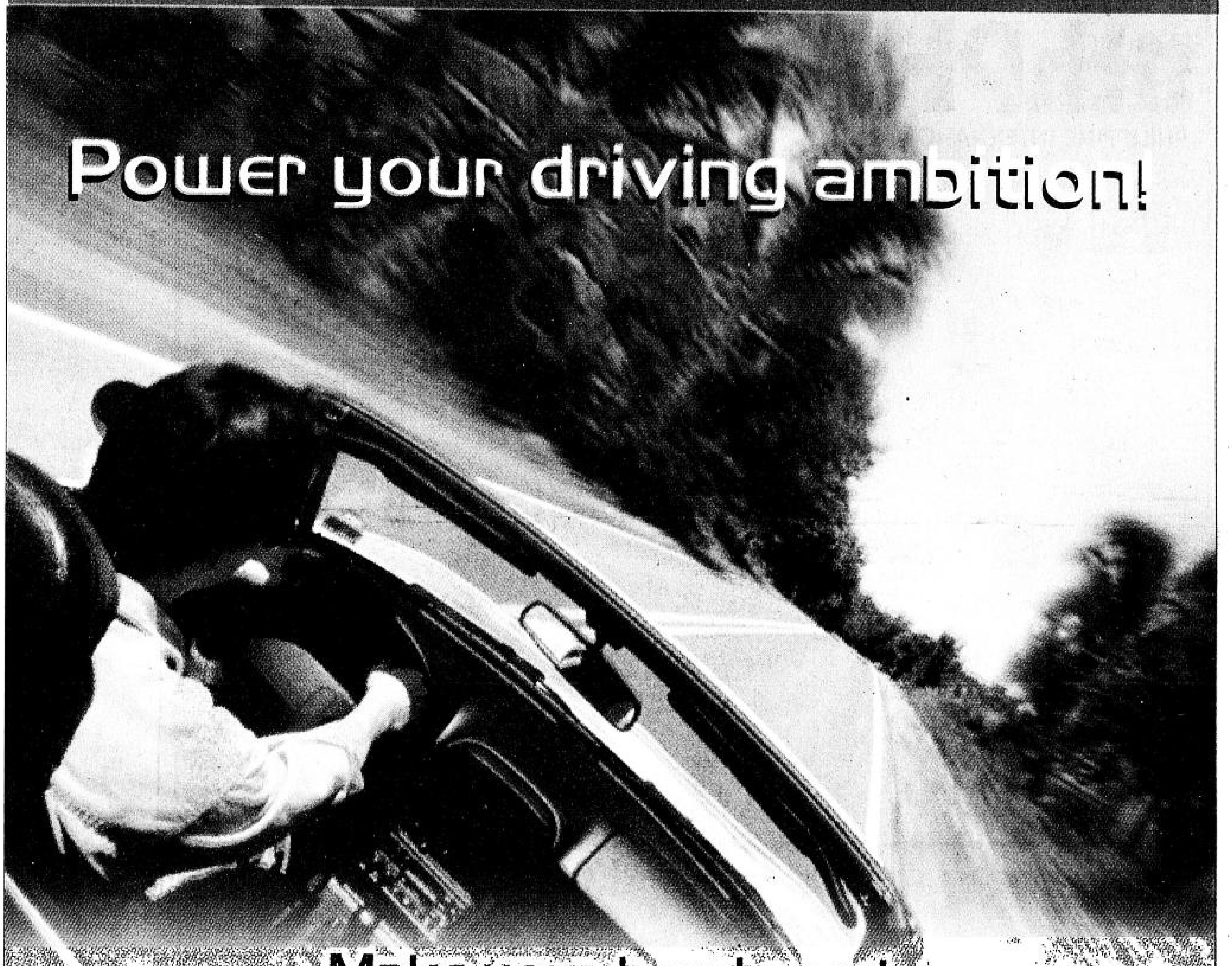

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Is that your final cancer?

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

POWER generation may not be a lucrative business anymore. The state monopoly Napocor is losing heavily. Thus it is . . . well, "diversifying."

Napocor is raring to diversify into insurance. In fact, Napocor president Jesus Alcordo has already informed the GSIS about his plan.

Under the law, only the GSIS has the responsibility to secure all properties of all government agencies like Napocor. It said all. The law did not say all except Napocor.

But Alcordo wants Napocor to choose, on its own, the companies that will do the so-called reinsurance for its multibillion pesos worth of assets.

In fact, Alcordo is so enthusiastic about the new business, he does not mind admitting he knows zilch about it. He has hired private consultants for reinsurance.

Multibillion pesos worth of assets, of course, command multimillion pesos worth of insurance premium, which actually means multimillion pesos worth of commission.

* * *

ACTUALLY, anyway, the GSIS is the one insuring Napocor. To spread the risk, the GSIS only farms out the insurers abroad. This is done through a bidding. But because of Napocor's diversification, Alcordo does not want the GSIS to do Napocor's reinsurance anymore. The GSIS does not even hold to any bidding.

According to Alcordo's plan, Napocor will simply choose the reinsurance companies through a powerful committee known as the Industrial All Risk Policy Award. Whoever thought of such a name, I know, should be shot. But that is not the point here. The point is, Alcordo does not really want to take over the GSIS function entirely.

As consolation prize, for instance, Alcordo is even inviting the GSIS to send representatives to the Napocor committee that is choosing the reinsurers.

What a terrific guy! Alcordo already saves the GSIS a lot of work. Now he even allows the GSIS to watch while Napocor does the work. What more does the GSIS want?

* * *

WELL, not much, really, because GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia told Alcordo, in a letter, to please just go to hell. Of course in a nice diplomatic way!

In the end, if something bad happens, and the insured government agencies must collect on its insurance, it's the GSIS that must pay up.

Technically, the assets are insured with the GSIS. If the reinsurance companies do not deliver, the GSIS—not Napocor—gets f . . .ed. The GSIS must pay for the claims.

This looks like a mano-a-mano now. To answer Garcia, the brave Alcordo held a press conference. Seriously, he really held a press conference on insurance—not power.

Anyway, Napocor has only minor problems. Now seemingly on its final days in this world, the company has a little condition known as financial cancer.

Because of its appalling finances, as a matter of fact, the national government is borrowing money for the corporation. Oh, only P3 billion! For now! Much more later!

In the first five months, Napocor succeeded in posting another huge loss of about P2 billion. It was such a feat to Alcordo that he hopes to sustain it for the rest of the year.

I should hope not, but I am not kidding. Alcordo was quoted in reports as calling the P2-billion loss a success. And he even wants Napocor to lose some more.

* * *

Now, it's stock manipulation and insider trading. This is the latest attack from Rep. Augusto Boboy Syjuco against the Concepcions of RFM and Cosmos.

Syjuco wrote the stock exchange that Jose Concepcion Jr. and Jose Concepcion III were artificially supporting the stock prices of those listed companies.

The maneuver, according to Syjuco, is designed to fool the stockholders of RFM and Cosmos, and the investing public.

In effect, he said that the Concepcion group wanted to keep the prices of the two companies' stocks high. There is danger to the investors, he said.

Syjuco claimed that not a single centavo of the P15 billion, which San Miguel has agreed to pay RFM for the control of Cosmos, would actually go to RFM.

He said everything would be used up in paying the debts of the RFM group, and the taxes, which are due the government in the San Miguel buyout.

With Syjuco's latest offensive, of course, the rumor mill starts humming in the stock market. Word in the market is, he is willing to settle with the Concepcion group.

* * *

AS you know, the issue on whether Pagcor should operate the jai alai game just made a successful comeback, thanks to the Supreme Court.

The high court ruled that the government gaming company Pagcor, indeed, may operate jail alai as a gambling business.

Earlier, Pagcor contracted the listed firm Belle Resources to operate the jai alai game. Its legality was questioned before the court by some pretty boy congressmen.

During the time of the man named Band . . . Wrist Band . . . jai alai became a political pawn. It was used as a symbol of the former administration's decadence.

Imagine, the jai alai did not even go to Congress to get a franchise, and Pagcor simply went ahead to operate it. Gambling became a rally cry for the pretty boys.

The Supreme Court, in effect, said the Wrist Band administration was correct in allowing Pagcor to operate the jai alai game. End of argument! Final answer!

But before the ruling came out, word went around that certain individuals who claimed to represent some congressmen peddled a congressional jai alai franchise.

Remember—the argument before the Supreme Court was that Pagcor had no right to operate the jai alai game because only Congress can grant the franchise.

Now we all know that getting any franchise can cost a fortune. Big, big fortune! The price quoted by the peddlers was a special give-away P200 million only.

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You are invited to the Metro Manila General Assembly on September 6, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. at the 36F UrbanBank Plaza, Urban Avenue, Makati City.

As you may know, September 14, 2001 is the commencement of the MONEYBACK PLAN covering the initial payments for all UBI/UII deposits and investments.

The General Assembly will discuss the mechanics of this plan and other issues crucial to the interest of NAUD members.

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Napocor chief offers to quit over GSIS row

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HEAD of the National Power Corp. offered yesterday to resign over an auction to insure the power firm's $10 billion worth of assets.

"I am putting my job on the line. If I don't get something better for Napocor, I'm willing to resign," Napocor president Jesus Alcordo told reporters.

"This is a matter of principle, transparency and what is best for the government," he said.

Alcordo is locked in a dispute with Government Service Insurance System president Winston Garcia, who has accused the Napocor chief of harboring a hidden agenda in insisting that Napocor has a hand in choosing its reinsurance brokers.

Alcordo said Napocor would go ahead on Friday with an auction to choose brokers for Napocor's "all-risk insurance policy" due to expire by the end of the month.

He insisted that Napocor was not encroaching on GSIS' mandate.

Under the law, only the GSIS has the responsibility to secure all properties of all government agencies, including Napocor.

Alcordo said Napocor was just asking to "participate in the process of getting the best rates and the best broker."

"After all, we are the client. We pay for the premiums," he said.

He clarified that the value of Napocor's insurable assets had dissipated to $6 billion from $10 billion "due to the mothballing of some of the assets."

Alcordo said in view of two separate biddings, Napocor would insist on hiring the one with better terms even if it turned out to be the GSIS' choice.

"But if the winning broker in our own bidding has better rates and the GSIS refuses, we will elevate this to the secretary of energy," he said.

"What we want is just to have a more transparent process than they used to have. That is why we are proposing a bidding committee composed of Napocor and GSIS representatives," he said.

Alcordo challenged the GSIS "to show the public which insurance company received $13.8 million in insurance premiums."

He said Napocor had never known the insurer concerned since the policy was renewed in April 2001.

"They never tell us. They say it's not our concern, but of course it is," he said.

He added that the renewal of the policy covering the period April 2000 to September 2001 "was done on a negotiated basis without the benefit of public tender."

He said the government should investigate this, adding that the insurance program GSIS provided was not responsive to the needs of Napocor.

"We can't receive claims for damages until we fully pay for it. What kind of insurance is that?" he asked.

The GSIS' Garcia said earlier there was "something wrong" with Alcordo's position on the issue.

He disclosed that Alcordo asked him to deal with a "private consultant" over a scheduled auction of Napocor's $10-billion insurance policy.

"Something is wrong. He wants me to deal with this private consultant. Come on, I am not a person who will make backroom deals on this thing," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

Bear Stearns to handle $500-M Napocor notes

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. said yesterday it had awarded investment firm Bear Stearns the mandate to arrange the placement of the company's seven-year debt notes amounting to at least $400 million.

Proceeds of the borrowing would be used to partly refinance its maturing debts and to cover capital requirements for the rest of the year, the company said in a statement.

Napocor, which owned most of the country's power plants, did not say when and where it would float the debt papers.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said Napocor would also offer P3 billion worth of three-month bonds that it would issue today.

"The terms for the three-month issue would be better than market rates," he said.

Proceeds of the $400-million issue would be used to pay off Napocor's maturing debts of about $300 million and cover its capital expenses.

The power firm needs to raise some $530 million this year to settle its debts and finance its operations.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the short-term borrowing would be used until the government had borrowed the remaining $130 million of its needs this year.

As the Napocor is set to be privatized, the government has to back-up its loan with a sovereign guarantee or even borrow in behalf of the power firm.

The power firm has refused to disclose the details of the long-term bond issue because of confidentiality requirements.

SMC sells Sugarland stake to La Tondeña for ₱1.56B

By Doris C. Dumlao

SAN Miguel Corp. has sold its 49-percent stake in powdered juice and jelly snack manufacturer Sugarland Beverage Corp. to hard liquor unit La Tondeña Distillers Inc. for P1.56 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, SMC spokesperson Ferdinand Constantino said: "The sale is in connection with the restructuring of LTDI and its water and juice subsidiaries, prior to LTDI's sale of its water and juice businesses to Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines, Inc. and the Coca Cola Co."

When the SMC group bought Sugarland for P2.9 billion last year, LTDI accounted for 51 percent while SMC got the remaining 49 percent. This sale will give 100-percent control of Sugarland to LTDI in preparation for the former's turnover to CCBPI.

The SMC group is currently consolidating its non-alcoholic businesses in LTDI for eventual transfer to CCBPI. Aside from Sugarland, the other units LTDI had absorbed were Metro Bottled Water Corp. and SMC Juice Inc.

CCBPI's Atlanta-based parent firm Coca Cola Co. is acquiring the water and juice brands of SMC and LTDI for $84 million as part of its strategy to expand its beverage portfolio. On the other hand, CCBPI itself will acquire the production assets and operations associated with both the water and powdered juice brands of SMC and LTDI for $57 million.

The roughly P7.2-billion deal will consist of 12 ready-to-drink juice production lines, two powdered juice facilities and four water facilities.

The brands to be turned over to the Coca Cola group are: Royal soft drink and Magnolia fruit juices from SMC; Eight o' Clock fruit juice from Sugarland; Ice Cold Mix, Ponkana, Wilkins water, First water, Viva water, Zip and Funchum fruit juices from LTDI.

LTDI, on the other hand, will continue to produce hard liquor brands Ginebra San Miguel, Añejo Rum Oro, Vino Kulafu, Tondeña Manila Rum Gold and San Miguel Bravo Rum. With the sale of non-liquor businesses to CCBPI, which was re-acquired by SMC last year, LTDI will concentrate on its core businesses of hard liquor manufacturing.

LTDI's liquor business accounts for 73 percent of total revenues, while the water and juice units account for the remaining 27 percent.

LTDI will use the proceeds of the sale to reduce roughly P7.1 billion in debt for expansion in both the domestic and regional markets.

Palm oil firm gets incentives

PHILIPPINE Agriculture Land Development Mill (Palm) Inc. is investing P355 million for a palm oil mill in Bohol for industrial users in the local and international markets.

Palm Inc. is a Filipino-Malaysian venture controlled by banker Richard T. Uy and Agusan Plantation Inc. chair Chan Lok Lim, former CEO and vice chair of Kumpulan Emas Bhd., a Malaysian publicly listed firm involved in oil palm and cocoa plantation development and milling.

The palm oil mill is expected to have a capacity of 29,520 metric tons of crude palm oil and 5,760 metric tons of palm kernel oil a year. It is aiming to achieve 89 percent of its capacity in its eight years of operation.

The deep orange-red crude palm oil is generally used in the formulation of margarine and cooking oil, soap and detergents, and food products.

The firm is planning to sell its output to domestic refiners and users such as Vergeoil Philippines Inc., Oleo Fats Inc. and Nestlé Inc. as well as exports to refineries of Unilever, Procter and Gamble, Kuok Group and buyers in Europe, Malaysia, China and India.

Palm Inc. will get its raw materials through its outgrower program wherein the company would sign technical, marketing and financing agreements with farmers. As of July this year, the program has already enlisted several contract-growers with at least 5,000 hectares devoted for palm oil trees.

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ALABANG "A"	1,720,000	ALABANG "A"	Call now
BAGUIO CC	800,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
CALATAGAN	110,000	EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
CANLUBANG GC	865,000	MAKATI SPORTS "A"	375,000
CAPITOL HILLS	135,000	MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	Call now
LUISITA GC "A"	535,000	MANILA POLO	Call now
MAKATI SPORTS "A"/"B"	0.43M/0.45M	MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	Call now
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	850,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
ORCHARD "C"	550,000	STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
RIVIERA GCC "A"/"B"	0.225M/0.400M	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	Call now
ROCKWELL CLUB	585,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	2,000,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000
VALLEY GOLF	270,000	WACK WACK GOLF	7,500,000
WACK WACK GOLF	Call now		

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MIMOSA (INDIV)	5,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,700,000	1,725,000/1,800,000*
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	800,000
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB A/B*	-	100,000/105,000*
CAMP JOHN HAY	320,000	325,000
CAPITOL HILLS	130,000	135,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210,000	215,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**:	350,000/620,000**	400,000/450,000*/700,000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200,000
EVERCREST A/B*	-	150,000/170,000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90,000/150,000*/280,000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	220,000	240,000/350,000*/450,000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	500,000	Please call or swap
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	-	350,000/400,000*
MANILA POLO CLUB	-	3,575,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	800,000/850,000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	-	175,000/180,000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	350,000*	240,000/375,000*
MT. MALARAYAT A/C* (with lot)**	350,000	400,000/650,000*/2,000,000**
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	600,000**	250,000/425,000*
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	160,000	170,000/Please call*
RIVIERA A/B*	-	230,000/400,000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	500,000	600,000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450,000**
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB A	1,800,000	1,825,000
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	400,000*	300,000/450,000*
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000*
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CC/GOLF*	-	400,000/950,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	760,000	800,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	190,000
VALLEY GOLF	250,000	-
WACK WACK	8,000,000	8,500,000

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2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	2,000,000	1,800,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000	
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000	
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	850,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	135,000	
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	210,000	200,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	400,000	
10. CLUB FILIPINO	250,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	220,000	
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	400,000	350,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	140,000	100,000
14. FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls. Call
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
17. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	400,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	350,000	
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	450,000	
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	14,500,000	
21. MANILA POLO CLUB	3,300,000	
22. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000	700,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	900,000	800,000
24. MANILA YACHT CLUB	650,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000	
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	170,000	150,000
27. MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	250,000	
29. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	400,000	
30. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	550,000	
31. PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	150,000	140,000
32. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	230,000	200,000
33. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	
34. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	
35. ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls Call
36. STA ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,900,000	1,800,000
37. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	300,000	
38. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	900,000	850,000
39. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
40. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	195,000	175,000
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Competing with world's best

Local outsourcing firms are offering everything, but the kitchen sink

By Sheila S. Pesayco

(Second of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

WITH globalization and the growing complexity of business transactions, Arthur Andersen's Virginia Obcena says Philippine companies should form strategic alliances to take advantage of the multi-billion-dollar outsourcing business.

"For instance, IBM can provide the hardware, (Germany's) SAP can serve as the software, and SGV can supply the people," she said.

Besides accounting and handling payroll, some Philippine-based companies are also bent on giving the Indians a run for their money in information technology outsourcing services.

One such company is Saztec Philippines Inc., whose shareholders include Crimson Ventures, a $500-million venture capital that invests in IT companies in Silicon Valley and in Asia; Electra Partners, a United Kingdom-based private equity; and the American International Group convertible notes.

SPI was set up in 1980 as a mere sweatshop of computer data encoders. Twelve years later, after becoming the first IT company to list on the Philippine Stock Exchange, the company, now called SPI Technologies Inc., said it had "graduated" into more complex forms of document conversion that "require more brainpower, in-depth training and better English skills."

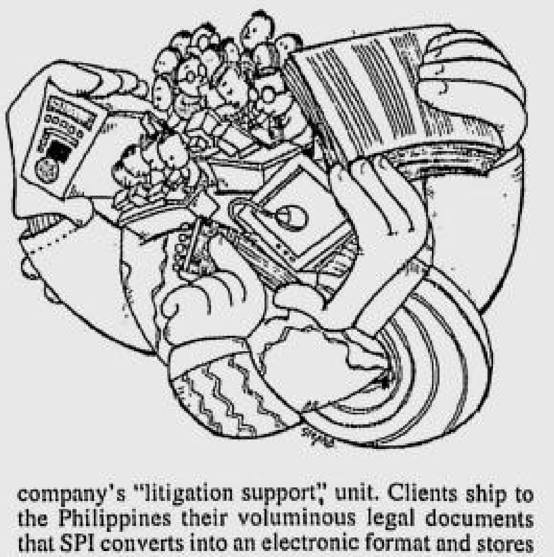
SPI's four-story building in Parañaque City is a showcase of this "talent." On one floor of the building is the content conversion services (CCS) unit where one can see rows upon rows of young employees silently working behind computer terminals. Here, data are lifted from paper and converted into an electronic format—a task that demands better hand-eye coordination and lightning-speed typing skills. This type of service caters to SPI's clients whose businesses heavily rely on information, such as Lexis Nexis, one of the biggest publishers in the United States.

The global bandwagon towards providing services on the Internet is primarily driving the demand for data conversion. Under SPI's CCS unit is the "library services" section where data in library card catalogues are encoded in computers and follow a database format. Over 100 libraries worldwide have already availed of SPI's "multilingual" services. This means an encoder proficient in English will sometimes handle library material in other foreign languages. Encoders will copy the text letter after letter instead of word for word or statement after statement had the material been in English.

The company requires employees to have a typing speed of 13,000 keystrokes per hour, of which only one error is tolerated, or a degree of accuracy of 99.9995 percent, according to Leny Salumbre, SPI's manager for investor relations.

Content conversion accounted for 44 percent of SPI's P296.7 million in consolidated revenues in the first half of 2001. Sales from the business grew 70 percent from year-ago levels.

Other services



Providing a slight variation of the service is the company's "litigation support" unit. Clients ship to the Philippines their voluminous legal documents that SPI converts into an electronic format and stores in a database. The company customizes "search" mechanisms for clients to easily retrieve the documents from the computer. Among SPI's clients is Bill Gates' Microsoft Corp., which ships paperwork on its controversial anti-trust suit in the United States to Parañaque, according to a company official who declined to be named. SPI also maintains a digitized archive for the US Justice Department and for the United Kingdom voters' list.

Most profitable

The source says the litigation support service has so far been SPI's most profitable business unit. On the other hand, it's also its most "volatile business" due to the uncertainty in the number of cases filed abroad.

In 1998, SPI generated $4.1 million in gross revenues from the unit, but this had since gone down to $1.7 million in the succeeding years. Litigation support accounted for 16 percent of the company's total sales that rose 17 percent to P106 million (roughly $2.12 million) in the first semester from the same period last year.

Delivering 10 percent of SPI's revenues in the first half is the "scholarly publisher services" unit, which handles pre-press work (content conversion, copyediting, scanning, typesetting, formatting) for publishers of scientific, technical and medical journals. The company's clients include Elsevier Science, the world's largest scientific journal publisher, and Nature Publishing.

SPI started offering the service when it bought in 1997 the pre-press assets of Elsevier Science in The Netherlands. The deal includes a 10-year contract for SPI to service the pre-press needs of the Dutch publisher. SPI decided to set up a separate company called Content Sciences, Inc. just to meet the growing business demand from Elsevier Science. The new unit is scheduled to start commercial operations next month, and is expected to bring in P1 billion in revenues for SPI under the four-year contract with Elsevier, the company source said.

While SPI sees the continued growth of its IT outsourcing business, the company official said the company could preserve its margins only by keeping its current overhead costs. The move actually started two years ago when SPI had to shed 25 percent of its regular manpower to outsource the work to India and China. At present, only half of its 1,600-strong employees work full time.

"So far, we are very pleased with our experience in outsourcing to China," said the company's Salumbre.

With the proposal to hike the Philippine minimum daily wage by P125, "SPI can still be competitive but only if it outsources some of the work to China and maybe Vietnam," says the company source. Manpower costs in these countries are currently about 50-percent cheaper than in the Philippines, he adds.

Business solutions

For Domingo Guanio, the only way the Philippines could compete with countries like India and China in terms of cheap labor cost is not to compete at all.

"India can undercut us at the lowest service level—(the type of work that requires) no brains, but pure labor. So what SVI and a lot of other Philippine firms must do is to raise the value of the service that we provide," said the assistant vice president of Software Ventures International Group of Companies (SVI), an IT outsourcing services and solutions provider.

The company was set up in 1987 by 50 employees who ran the core IT operations of the Corporate Information Solutions Inc., a unit of the Manila Electric Co. It was a difficult time for the domestic economy due to the political transition so the company set its sights on the US market.

SVI's first "big break" came when US investment house Goldman Sachs tapped the company to convert its computer mainframe into another system. Guanio said the success of the deal "opened a lot of doors in the US" for SVI. This included luring investors like Citibank NA and GE Capital, both New York-based financial institutions.

Guanio said the "second big break" was when Sea-land Service, Inc. needed a company like SVI to handle its "offshore maintenance." This simply means troubleshooting is done in Manila whenever computer problems arise after the close of business hours in Sea-land's US office.

An offshoot of the business relationship is when SVI helped convince the US firm to relocate its regional backroom operations from Tokyo to the Wynsum Corporate Plaza at the Ortigas Center, Pasig City, in 1998. Guanio said Sea-land realized a lot of savings as a result of the move. The US firm used to pay $80,000 a year just for a single accountant in Tokyo.

Offshore maintenance currently forms a big part of SVI's operations, employing 120 people in the Philippines and 25 in the United States. In fact, three of the four floors at the JMT Corporate Condominium in Ortigas are occupied by SVI staff, servicing the computer maintenance and programming needs of US clients such as Safeway and Northwest Airlines.

"What's unique about this work is that this is not a development-type of project but a continuing, maintenance work," Guanio said.

More solutions

While SVI is moving towards providing more business and IT solutions to US clients, nearly half of its 1,800-strong workforce still perform data encoding and database services. At its Clark Data Center, Inc. in Pampanga, it has an "army" of 800 encoders and IT professionals processing electronic data from truckloads of paper.

"Any company that has a multitude of documents stored in boxes which they can't get, that's a target for outsourcing. You want those documents scanned, indexed and available on a computer," Guanio said.

Among SVI's "select" local clients for this service were the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. and the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) of the National Government.

"For DBM, we tracked its budget disbursements but the change in administration prompted a change in its focus," he said.

Though global demand for this type of service is still exploding, Guanio says Philippine outsourcing firms may still find it hard to match India's pricing structure. He says India can quote as low as $4 per hour (equivalent to 10,000 keystrokes) for data encoding work. In the Philippines, the pay usually ranges from $8 to $10 an hour.

SVI instead sees bigger revenue potential from business process outsourcing. One of its main targets is to provide medical information services. At present, Guanio says the US medical industry still lacks the resources to process data from medical transcriptions.

"A doctor makes a diagnosis, writes it on a piece of paper, sends it to an insurance company to collect. That takes three days," he explains.

SVI will provide a system where a doctor in the United States will only need to pick up a phone, dial a 1-800 number, key in the patient's ID number and record his dictation on the phone. "That dictation goes to a server in the Philippines, where it will be transcribed, put in a database and e-mailed back to the doctor in no time," Guanio says.

The company now has around 50 nurses and doctors at its Clark office doing medical transcription. It also has marketing arms in North Carolina and New Jersey and a call center in New York to support the outsourcing service.

"This is fairly new but the potential is so huge for SVI and for the Philippines," Guanio said.

While computer software is now performing human functions, he says computers can't simply replace humans in all aspects of activity.

"The world is automating slowly. But there's always a phone call that has to be written down on a piece of paper and a service delivery. These services will still need people," he says. *(To be continued)*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, Sept. 3, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	61.5	60	60	190,900
China Banking Corp.	640	640	640	640	36,240
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30	30	28.5	29	106,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	204	206	201	206	22,650
Philippine National Bank	53	53.5	53	53	39,600
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	2,400
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1450	1455	1450	1455	3,650
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1180	1185	1175	1180	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	32.5	32.5	11,900
Diversified Fin. Network	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	90,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	640	640	9,930
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.033	0.034	0.033	0.034	5,800,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	485	495	480	480	155,670
Ivantage Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	50,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.03	8,400,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	1,400
Manila Electric Co. B	44	44	43.5	44	586,500
Petron Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	1,677,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.9	1.94	1.9	1.94	125,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	32,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	70,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1	1.02	1	1.02	370,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	0.9	1.3	0.9	1.3	30,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.2	1.2	360,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	86,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	148,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	2,000
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	4,000
RFM Corp.	2.26	2.3	2.22	2.22	357,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40	40	39.5	40	27,500
San Miguel Corp. B	55	56	55	56	373,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.61	90,000
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.2	6.2	735,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	62,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	130,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	4,000,000
Anglo'Phil Holdings Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	11	11	11	11	100
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.58	477,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	350,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	29	29	29	29	6,600
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.14	0.13	0.14	1,500,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	200,000
Ionics Inc.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	50,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	127,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	330,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	3,430,000
Music Corp.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.19	0.17	0.19	1,960,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.75	1,460,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	400,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	18,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	160,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	310,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.46	630,000
Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.	18	18	18	18	1,500
Manila Jockey Club	19.25	19.25	19.25	19.25	2,000
Philippine Racing Club	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	377,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	32	33.5	32	33.5	10,500
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref.	11	11	11	11	900
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	0.0022	1,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series N	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10	10	10	10	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	400
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	29,500,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	300	300	300	300	190
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.7	1,218,000
Cityland Development Corp.	3	3	3	3	652,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	20,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	500,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	430,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.86	193,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.13	1,290,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	90,000
Primex Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.48	2.5	40,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	700,000
SM Development Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6.1	2,356,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	117,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.038	0.038	0.038	0.038	1,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	2,050,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	1,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	10,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	1,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	300,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	413,660	50,831,620.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	69,103,090	151,800,865.00
PRO	8,029,000	23,006,140.00
Mining	6,098,000	620,100.00
OIL	7,000,000	107,200.00
GRAND TOTALS:	90,648,750	226,380,925.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	520.21	DOWN 5.70
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,765.53	DOWN 24.65
PRO	489.69	UP 3.39
Mining	1,197.93	DOWN 6.08
OIL	1.45	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	756.95	DOWN 18.44
Composite	1,253.61	DOWN 11.83

NO. OF ADVANCES: 17; NO. OF DECLINES: 43; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 52; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 112; NO. OF TRADES: 1,112

CURRENCIES

Sept. 3, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.096611	1.000000	51.0170
Japan	Yen	0.009233	0.008420	0.4296
United Kingdom	Pound	1.594254	1.453800	74.1685
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140599	0.128212	6.5410
Switzerland	Franc	0.659616	0.601504	30.6869
Canada	Dollar	0.706944	0.644662	32.8887
Singapore	Dollar	0.630237	0.574713	29.3201
Australia	Dollar	0.578565	0.527593	26.9162
Bahrain	Dinar	2.908938	2.652661	135.3308
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293212	0.267380	13.6409
Brunei	Dollar	0.626027	0.570874	29.1243
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000124	0.000113	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024894	0.022701	1.1581
UAE	Dirham	0.298641	0.272331	13.8935
Korea	Won	0.000862	0.000786	0.0401
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.911900	46.5224
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.466247	23.7865
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139018	7.0923
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.413802	21.1109
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.066270	3.3809
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022605	1.1532
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000471	0.0240
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153371	7.8245
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004549	0.2321
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005481	0.2796
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022605	1.1532
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.157874	59.0713

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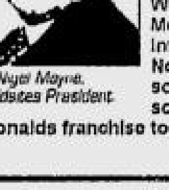

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Sons of J. Lanuza-Auctioneer.

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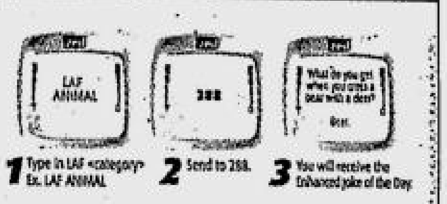

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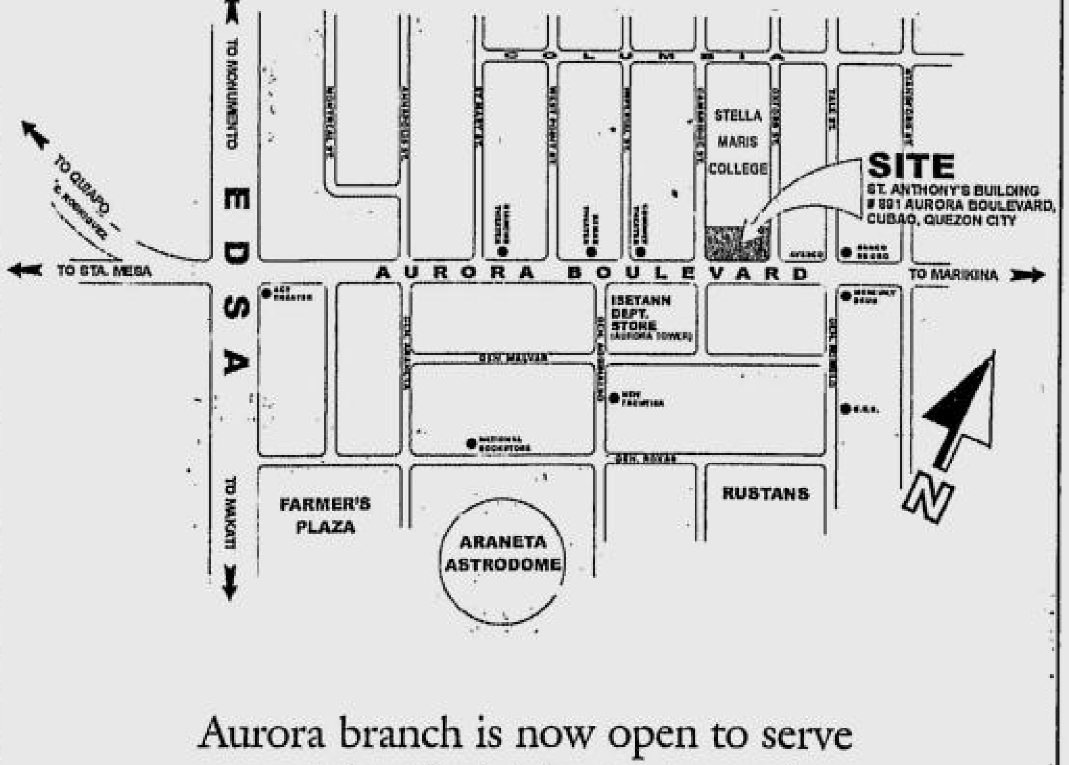

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ALIPIO PATRICIO RAMOS

Born in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte on August 8, 1908

Peacefully joined his Creator on September 2, 2001

He is survived by his wife **Oceania Pacis**; children **Rena & Judge Pablo Villanueva, Rene Comfa** and **Alben Santos, Rex & Myrna Dantes, Reme & Eddie Espiritu**; grandchildren **Paul, Janice & Daryl; Mark & Mia; Ronan & Mel Castro, Minnette & Dante Flores; Queenie & Eunice**; great grandchildren **Rizza, Ryan** and **Robin**; sister **Conching** and brother **Guillermo**; nephews, nieces, cousins, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, September 6, 2001 at the La Funeraria Paz Crematory after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Arlington.

Death is not the extinguishing of the light
It is turning off the lamp because the morning has come.

Glorious morning has come for our beloved friend, mentor and boss

DR. LEON VIEJO CHICO (LC)

Devoted husband to Joey;
Doting dad to Carina, Cristina and Christopher.

A father of the small enterprise development movement in the Philippines; teacher, entrepreneur, development manager.

He welcomed the dawn on August 16 at San Bernardine Medical Center, California, U.S.A. His mortal remains were laid to rest on August 21 at Forest Lawn Memorial Parks, Covina Hills, Ca.

Relatives, friends, former colleagues, employees and staff will celebrate Mass and share memories in LC's honor at the U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries, U.P. Diliman Campus, Quezon City at **3:30 p.m., Friday, September 14, 2001**.

The Officers and Staff
U.P. Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) and
Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation (SERDEF)

*Let us know if you can join us by calling Tel. 920-6923, 927-9238, 928-7076 to 79. (Mrs. Joey Chico will come.)

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

Sister FELISA TAN LIM, FMM

March 18, 1918 – September 1, 2001

Her bereaved brother, sisters, in-laws, nephews, nieces, and the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the chapel of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in Tagaytay.

Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the FMM Cemetery in Tagaytay.

Feliciano "Feles" S. Sonza

Born August 9, 1920
of Masantol, Pampanga

Was called home by his Heavenly Father
on August 27, 2001 at the age of 81.

Survived by his sisters, brother, nephews, nieces, in-laws, cousins and loved ones.

His remains will be laid to rest on Wednesday, September 5, 2001 at Masantol Catholic Cemetery, Masantol, Pampanga.

Atty. KARLO Q. BUTIONG

Former Councilor and Majority Floor Leader,
City of Manila, and
Administrator, Intramuros Administration

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace
and Goodness of the Lord
on the 1st day of September 2001 at the age of 42.

His loving wife **Helen** (†), mother **Luz**, father **Tony** (†), children **Karlene** and **Matt**, brother **Ronald**, sister-in-law **Melissa**, niece **Andrea**, nephew **Rafael**, and all his relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Butiong residence at 1607 Dagonoy Street, San Andres, Sta. Ana, Manila.

Interment will be on Thursday, September 6, 2001 at the Manila South Cemetery. Exact time and venue of funeral mass will be announced.

COL. JOSE R. VILLARICO (RET.)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on September 1, 2001
at the age of 71.

His wife **Betty Llagas Pandes Villarico**; children **Ritzi** and **Robee Ronquillo**; **Edwin** and **Beth Villarico**; grandchildren **Dodge, Ram** and **Rianne Ronquillo**, and **Shanele Villarico**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Fairview Park, Quezon City until September 3, 2001, and at the Libingan ng mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, from September 4 to 6, 2001.

Interment will be at 12:00 noon on September 6, 2001, at the Libingan ng mga Bayani.

DANIEL CASAO GUTIERREZ

Peacefully joined his Creator
on August 29, 2001 at the age of 81.

His remains lie in state at Beredo Village Chapel, Alangilan, Batangas City.

Interment will be on September 4, 2001 after 1:00 p.m. Mass at Eternal Garden Memorial Park, Balagtas, Batangas City.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:39

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REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Is your office, school, mall also accident-prone?

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

(Second of two parts)

IF your home is in danger of burning down any moment, is there any reason for you to feel safe in the refuge of a hotel, an office building, a school, or a mall instead? Judging from what happened to the Manor Hotel recently, even such public places are potential death traps.

The Maintenance Association of the Philippines says that it hopes the Manor Hotel fire would be the last of its kind in the country. The Maphil has since stepped up its efforts to increase the level of safety consciousness and increased productivity of the people.

Maphil members—which include the Building Owners Managers Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Association of Building Administrators—are asked to keep their machines/equipment when not in use to prevent accidents and reduce downtime. Members are encouraged to check their establishments regarding electrical, motor, elevator and air-conditioning equipment or anything that might involve electricity and other fuels.

Maphil members are also asked to install safety doors that are engineered on a "push knob" basis. These doors are locked from the outside, but a slight force applied on it even from small, young occupants during emergencies could open these safety doors, with the doors swinging outward. Occupants of establishments are also advised to check on the type of fire extinguishers used. The ABC type is applicable for liquid, solid and electric fires.

Fire-retardant materials

Ordinary water cannot be used in electrical fires. Fire-retardant building materials, though more expensive, are worth it in the long run, said Maphil.

Use fire-retardant paints, and spray fire-retardant chemicals on curtains. Maphil president Ramon Elias F. Ortiz also recommends the use of durable electrical wires, which can also be more expensive, but may spell safety in buildings and homes. Ortiz specifically recommended Phelps Dodge electrical wires as the best.

Ortiz has been part of American and Filipino teams training semiconductor companies and building personnel on fire prevention. His team does mock drills to illustrate important roles individuals play in such a situation.

School training

Ortiz also encourages schools to include proper training on emergency cases in their curriculum. He calls this "combat readiness" in emergency cases. Ortiz stresses that as early as kindergarten up to college, training should be mandatory and not just limited to boy and girl scouts clubs. Ortiz also says the students should know how to determine the types of fire extinguishers applicable for the different types of fire.

"Consciousness in safety starts at home. What grownups (learn) from the home they bring to the schools and offices. Safety-conscious families raise children who know what to do, can save their own lives and others too," he says.

One rule of thumb, Ortiz reminds, is the "hour-minute limit." The crucial period when one can attempt to contain a fire takes about four minutes. If the fire exceeds more than that, house and building occupants are advised to head for the fire exits.

Best friend, worst enemy

"Fire is an enemy but it is also a friend. It heats the food for us. But once it goes out of control, this friend could kill you. So if you know your friends, you know how to control them." A fire is a result of a chemical reaction. A chemical reaction takes place if three elements of a fire triangle are present: fuel, heat and oxygen.

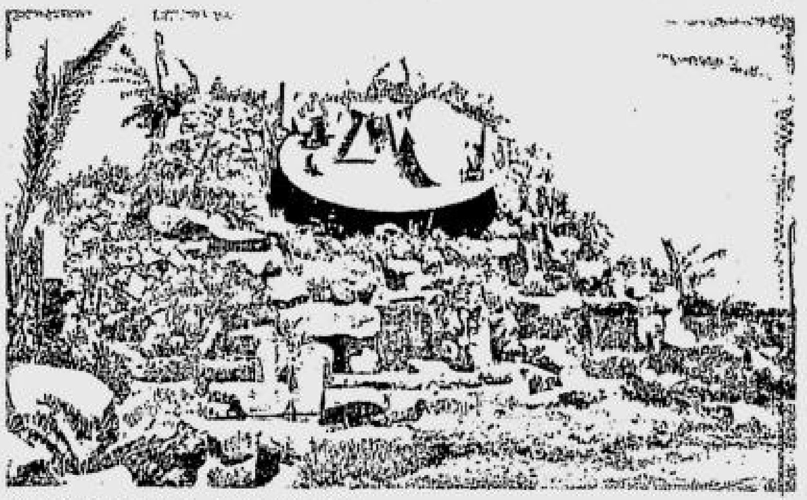
In a home, for instance, electricity is a source of heat. Faulty wires expose electrical currents, and these can come in contact with combustible materials such as wood.

Solid, combustible materials, such as wood or mattresses, cause solid fires. Liquid fuels, such as gasoline cause liquid fires, and electrical appliances cause electrical fires. Ortiz says that it is important to convert an electrical fire into a solid fire first before it can be put out.

When electrical appliances catch fire, one should first cut off the source of electricity by either switching off the main breaker or by simply unplugging the appliance from its socket before dousing it with water. Otherwise, a wet appliance could electrocute. In buildings, says Ortiz, emergency lamps should automatically switch on when the main breaker is switched off during fires, so that people would still see where to exit. "There are cases when thick black smoke had emerged and emergency lamps could no longer help occupants," he says.

Ortiz lists the top causes of fires: smoking in bed, faulty electrical installations, loose wirings, spontaneous combustion, fluorescent lamps, and overheated electric gas stoves and appliances.

A fire safety maintenance seminar is set on Sept. 7 at the Philippine Trade Training Center, Roxas Boulevard, Manila. E-mail maphil@manila-online.net or call 7171247 for details.



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P180.7-M subsidy released for urban poor housing loans

THE GRANT of loan assistance to informal settlers for land acquisition and housing construction or improvement got another boost from the recent release by the Department of Budget and Management of an additional P180.7-million to the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. to finance the agency's community mortgage program (CMP).

Lawyer Angelico T. Salud, NHMFC president, said the amount, representing the prior year's unfunded allocation from the national government subsidies for the CMP, will finance the housing loan requirements of from 3,615 to 6,025 urban poor families for loans ranging from P30,000 to P50,000 per family.

The additional subsidies released bring to a total of P249.5 million the available fund for the CMP loan financing as of this month, net of funds earlier earmarked for the CMP projects already approved by the NHMFC board of directors headed by Secretary Michael T. Defensor of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council.

The DBM releases for CMP for the year, made in May and June, amounted to P292-million.

Salud also said that as of July this year, the NHMFC has received total government subsidies for the CMP amounting to a total of P2.01 billion compared with the P3.132-billion aggregate CMP loans already granted.

The NHMFC plans to finance up to next year the acquisition of at least 20,000 housing units by informal settlers through the agency's revitalized CMP.

Salud added that the housing target will require some P1 billion in government subsidies to the CMP which he hopes will be released during the year to boost the delivery of 50,000 informal housing assistance earlier committed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Crown Asia marks 6 years of building the Filipino home

SIX years ago, one man had a vision of providing a roof over every Filipino's head as he correctly observed that given the proper incentive a Filipino *padre de familia* will work hard to get his family that home.

But it was not to be just any house; it was to be a home that had the features he wanted at a price that was acceptable. This summarizes the basic tenet that Crown Asia was founded on by businessman and now Sen. Manny B. Villar in July 1995.

His vision is the very heart of Crown Asia—an unwavering commitment to building homes for the Filipino family. With a very proven track record that boasts of six years of business excellence, Crown Asia is the leading homebuilder in the country today.

First major projects

When Crown Asia opened its first major projects—Cottonwood Heights in Antipolo City and La Marea in San Pedro, Laguna—it set itself apart from other developers with an aggressive marketing strategy that made it well-desired by consumers and well-received by brokers and agents.

The campaign focused on providing their sales network materials they needed and marketing events—grand openings, viewing days, buyer's and investor's day, property exhibits— where the network can take clients and show why Crown Asia's houses and subdivisions are sought after.

"Our confidence comes from the unwavering conviction of our employees and sales network to the Crown Asia work ethic of a willingness to assist the buyer as much as it is possible," said Crown Asia chief executive officer Marcelino G. Mendoza.

PERUVIA model house in Plantacion Meridienne—Crown Asia in Lipa, Batangas

Replicating success

Crown Asia has been able to replicate this success nationwide through an unprecedented number of subdivisions not just in Metro Manila but also in key areas in the northern and southern Philippines.

Before the year ends, Crown Asia is set to ground break various major projects in northern and southern Metro Manila and also in major cities like Cebu, Davao, Cagayan De Oro, Iloilo and Pangasinan.

Six years of building master-planned communities, which more than 10,000 families call home: a track record that speaks well not just of Crown Asia but also of its contractors and its sales network that is unmatched in the industry—international subsidiaries, marketing subsidiaries, more than 3,000 brokers and approximately 20,000 property consultants.

Just what makes a Crown Asia house a unique acquisition for the Filipino family?

The most apparent answer is Crown Asia's pioneering development of master-planned communities—homes and subdivisions that cater to the market demand for "affordable luxury."

Themed development

Crown Asia does not just construct houses, but builds communities that have been methodically planned out—from the location of the subdivision to the mapping out of roads, utilities and amenities and the proper embellishment needed in keeping with the particular ambience or theme of the estate.

A master-planned community or a themed development gives the subdivision an overall ambience through the overall design of the houses and landscaping of its pathways and parks.

The master-planned development emphasizes Crown Asia's commitment to building self-contained communities that have been planned from the first shovel of dirt to be dug to the last stroke of paint to be applied. This results in a subdivision that is at the right location—not too far from main business centers but far enough from the pollution—designed and constructed to follow the natural contour of the land to preserve the natural environment and optimize benefits that could be gained from it.

As part of its responsibility of protecting the environment, Crown Asia also supplements the present natural number of trees in a development by planting additional trees that will redound to added benefits to residents.

By making a home and a community that is luxurious and affordable, "we have been able to turn into a reality what our countrymen have always dreamed of—buy a house for their family to live in," Mendoza added.

What to consider in buying real property

PLANNING to acquire a real estate property? Cityland Development Corp., a trusted name in the real estate industry, offers you the following tips.

- **Location.** This should be one of your main considerations in buying a property. Choose a home that is accessible to schools, churches, hospitals and commercial establishments to forego long commuting times. Why entangle yourself in a traffic jam when you can avoid it.
- **Affordability.** Investing in real estate need not be expensive. Don't spend more when you can own a property at a reasonable price suitable to your budget. You can then enjoy your investment as it appreciates in value.
- **Choose a company with a track record.** You definitely would not want your hard-earned savings to go to waste. Go for the company with a solid track record. Apart from the guarantee that your property will be delivered on schedule, you would also be assured that it is of the highest quality. Choose wisely and you'll get your money's worth and peace of mind.

Prophil elects new officers

THE PROFESSIONAL Realty Organization of the Philippines (Prophil), the only private realty association that encompasses the four levels of the realty practitioners—the real estate salespersons, brokers, appraisers and consultants—recently elected its new set of officers.

Elected were Quin B. Baterna, chair; Victor T. Salinas, president; Jesus Nuqui, executive vice president; Fernando M. Miranda Jr., VP-consultants; Engr. Ernesto C. Ambrosio, VP-appraisers; Mary Gelle B. Maranan, VP-brokers; Oliver A. Morales, secretary general; Meneleo Albano, asst. secretary general; Mary Jucelle T. Baterna, treasurer; Pascual B. San Jose, auditor; Rodolfo D. Leonen, PRO.

Domingo D. de Vera, Diogenes A. Barredo and Florentino S. Dulalia Jr. were also elected as advisers.

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CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Blessed with breast cancer

The author passed away on July 30 due to metastatic breast cancer. She was marketing director of Subic Marine Exploratorium Inc. This article was found among her things in the office. She is survived by her mother Juanita and her daughter Angelica. She was 39 years old.

BY JEAN P. HERNANDO

THE AUTHOR

WHEN we hear of a person suffering from cancer, the initial reaction is sadness and then pity for the person himself and his family. There exists this general notion that being diagnosed with cancer is the beginning of the end. This is not so.

In July 1997, I was diagnosed to have breast cancer, stage 2B. In the past 10 months I went through two surgeries, nine cycles of chemotherapy and 35 days of radiation. After each chemotherapy session, for two to three days, I would experience indescribable headaches and body aches. I would feel nauseated, I could not eat and I could not sleep comfortably. Eventually, I lost all my hair including my eyebrows and eyelashes. I was always tired, I was bloated, and my skin color and texture changed. To this day, my right arm has not restored its normal functions as a result of the surgery. All through the 10 months, I was also warned to avoid crowded areas since I was prone to infection. This meant very minimal shopping, no watching of plays or movies, and limited participation in any social gathering. Or simply stated, zero social life was unconditionally advised.

Challenges

I am 36 years old and a single mother. My 5-year-old daughter and I have such a strong bonding that almost every activity she does is shared with me—eating, playing, reading, singing and even sleeping. I never miss out on any of her school activities. I accompany her in every birthday party she has to attend. I take her to amusement centers and theme parks, and I am there by her side for her every ache and pain. Cancer was definitely a deterrent to all that my daughter and I share. As my treatments progressed and my discomforts compounded, the precious moments that I spent with my daughter declined just as drastically.

Trapped in a situation like this, one can easily lose courage, face defeat and simply give up. Yet, you really do not. Each day, we are faced with a variety of challenges. How we deal with these challenges is but a reflection of what life has taught us, of the values that are preciously enrooted in us. Being afflicted with cancer should not be viewed as a punishment but as a blessing. For it is during this time that you are given the chance to develop and nurture your relationship with the Lord. It is during this period that you realize the many wonderful things you enjoy in life. You develop a brand-new appreciation not only of the things around you, but, more importantly, of the people that you used to take for granted.

> During this period, you are given
> the chance to nurture your relationship
> with the Lord and to realize
> the wonderful things you enjoy in life

Overwhelming support

When news that I was afflicted with cancer spread around, I received an overwhelming display of support not just from my family and close friends but from officemates, business acquaintances and even long-lost friends. Almost every day I would receive words of encouragement that proved to be nourishing food for my ailing spirit. The support of all these people is now ingrained in my heart and their gesture will never be forgotten. However, the one person that truly was instrumental to my recovery is my mother. During each chemo cycle, I would once again be a child dependent on my mother's loving care. And from beginning to end, my mother was there to bathe me and feed me, to comfort me and hold me. Truly, another blessing from the Lord.

If my mother is my indomitable support in my fight with cancer; my sole inspiration is definitely my daughter. She is the only person on this earth that I live for. More than myself and more than anyone else, she comes first in my life. I cannot and will not allow myself to be defeated by cancer for my daughter's sake. Yet, I now know that it is only the will of God that must be followed. It is only He, and not me, who knows what is best for me and my daughter. I have learned to put my trust in Him and continue to strengthen my faith in Him alone. He gave me cancer, not to persecute me, but to help me see the abundant blessings that I enjoy. He made me feel His enormous love for me as He helped me through each ordeal, through each pain. Today, I am overwhelmed with a feeling of security and confidence that He will be there with my daughter when the time comes for me to go. What more can I ask for?

As you fight cancer, it is very easy to feel depressed and defeated. It is very normal to feel selfish and only think of yourself and your miseries. It almost seems impossible to be happy when you know you have cancer. You worry about expenses, the pain and discomfort; your loved ones and, of course, the possibility of an early death. Initially, it may not be bad to indulge yourself with these feelings, but you must remember not to dwell on them. Absurd as it may be, look at the bright side and concentrate on your blessings. Know in your heart that the Lord will not give you a burden you cannot carry. Maybe you have forgotten Him and this is His way of reminding you that He is just there waiting for you. Turn to Him for comfort for He will not forsake you. Do not question His plans for you but instead allow Him to intervene in your life. As it is written in 2 Corinthians 4:7-18, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

JEAN with daughter Angelica and mother Juanita

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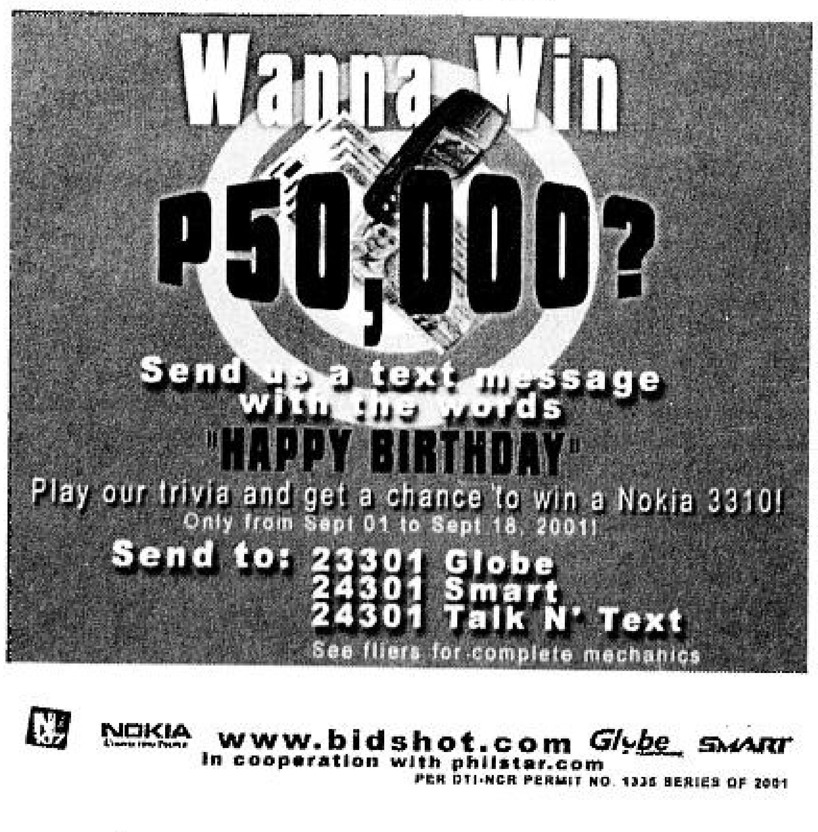
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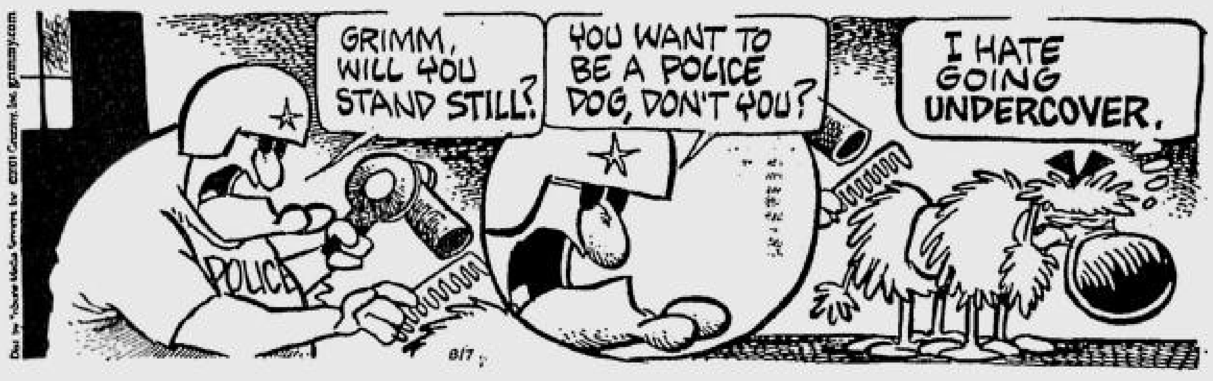
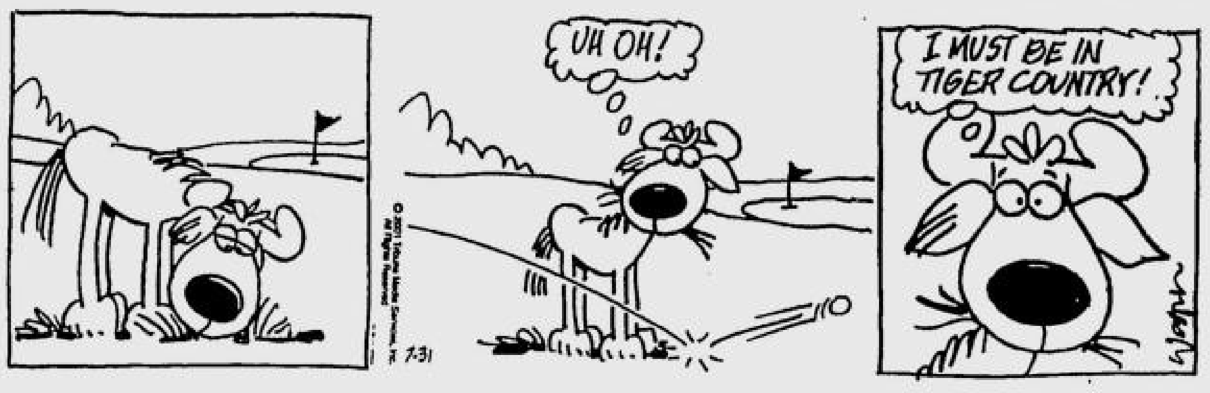
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


GRIMM, WILL YOU STAND STILL?
YOU WANT TO BE A POLICE DOG, DON'T YOU?
I HATE GOING UNDERCOVER.
POLICE
8/7

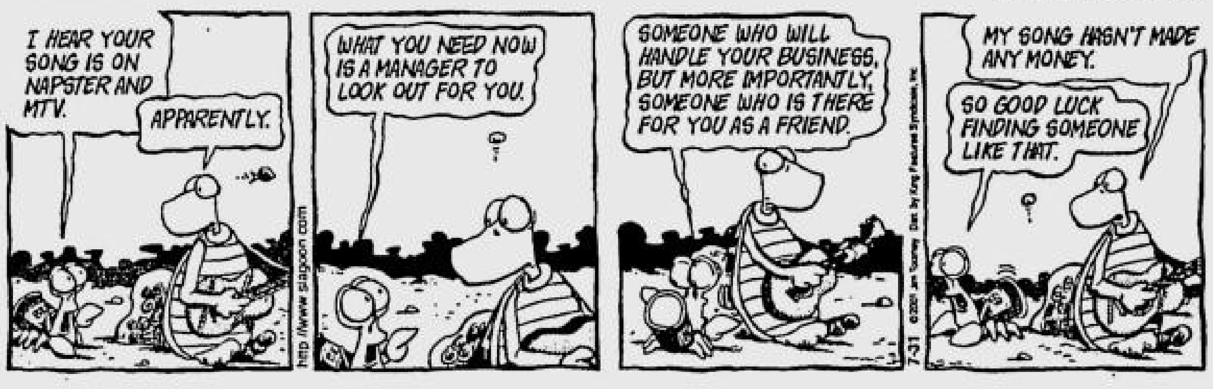
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


UH OH!
I MUST BE IN TIGER COUNTRY!
7-31

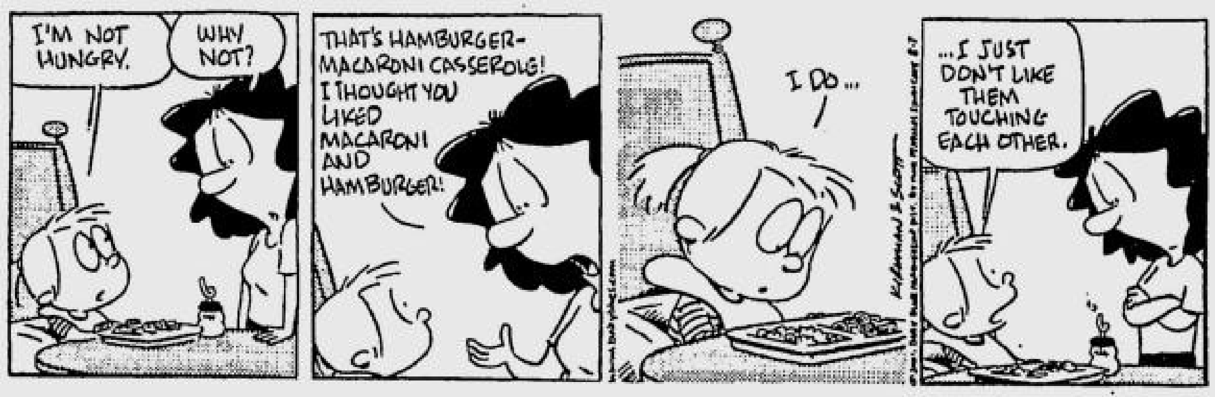
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I HEAR YOUR SONG IS ON NAPSTER AND MTV.
APPARENTLY.
WHAT YOU NEED NOW IS A MANAGER TO LOOK OUT FOR YOU.
SOMEONE WHO WILL HANDLE YOUR BUSINESS, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, SOMEONE WHO IS THERE FOR YOU AS A FRIEND.
MY SONG HASN'T MADE ANY MONEY.
SO GOOD LUCK FINDING SOMEONE LIKE THAT.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-31

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I'M NOT HUNGRY.
WHY NOT?
THAT'S HAMBURGER-MACARONI CASSEROLE! I THOUGHT YOU LIKED MACARONI AND HAMBURGER!
I DO...
...I JUST DON'T LIKE THEM TOUCHING EACH OTHER.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Watson, Mitzi Gaynor, Judith Ivey, Damon Wayans, Ione Skye

Happy Birthday: Take advantage of your intuition by being receptive to things you would normally turn your back on. A greater understanding of the obscure will help you develop your goals. The more you learn about others, the better the chance of success. Your numbers: 8, 14, 18, 25, 31, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Business opportunities will develop. However, be sure not to let others railroad you into supplying the cash. You will have problems getting back money you loaned to someone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel for the purpose ofaccomplishing unfinished projects. Don't let others get in your way. This is not a day that you should waste your time on trivial matters. Your professionalism will count.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have a problem with a client or colleague if you try to convince him or her to think the same way you do. It's best to listen and observe rather than push your own beliefs.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend time with friends that you don't see very often. If it isn't possible to physically visit, then call and touch base. You need to rékindle some of the connections that you've lost.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of pressing legal matters or concerns that involve large institutions or government agencies. You can resolve a great deal if you are persistent in getting your way. Don't take no for an answer.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Be honest about the way you feel. Your partner will be looking for a commitment, and you should be prepared to make one or move on.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be creative and get moving on those projects at work that need some special attention. Your attention to detail and efficiency will help you win points with the boss.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should follow your heart and your dreams. Look into activities that will bring you in contact with interesting people. You need to expand your circle of friends and take on new challenges.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Someone you live with may feel totally neglected. If you can include him or her in your plans, do so. Be prepared to make changes to your personal papers concerning insurance premiums.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You need to put some time aside to catch up on overdue correspondence with friends and relatives. Limitations may result if you become involved in the personal dilemmas of others.

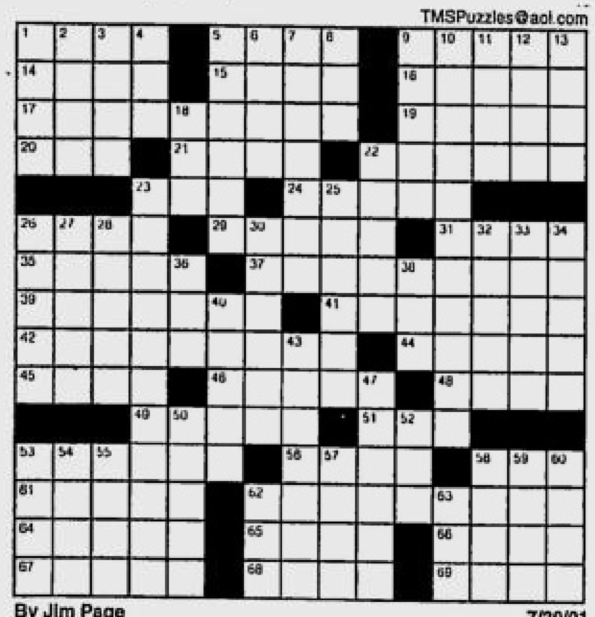
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will get along well with colleagues if you are willing to accept their ideas. Start a small business. It's time to turn your creative hobbies into a prosperous venture.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will attract attention if you participate in groups or join a co-ed fitness club. You need to socialize more to realize your full potential.

Birthday Baby: You have a creative mind and you certainly know how to entertain a crowd. Your ability to dazzle, mesmerize and capture will always be a valuable asset and lead to success.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Jim Page
New York, NY

7/20/01

ACROSS
1 Maiden
5 PB&J alternatives
9 Degrade
14 Muffin topper
15 Exclamations of wonder
16 Blasted cataracts
17 Way to board
19 Perjuring
20 Squirmy catch
21 Will of "The Waltons"
22 Ailment
23 Cranberry milieu
24 Cornhusker city
26 Greek portico
29 Selling feature
31 Immense
35 Water defenses
37 Parts of brains
39 Implant
41 More dreamy
42 Exhaust pipe, e.g.
44 Conform
45 Besides
46 French cash
48 Guessed figs.
49 Cut-price
51 Beatles hit, "And I Love __"
53 Reflect
56 Old Thailand
58 Singer Janis
61 More aloof
62 Rainwater pool
64 Opera boxes
65 Lotion ingredient
66 Norwegian king
67 Plumber's aid
68 Hale and hardy
69 "Auld Lang __"

DOWN
1 Misplace
2 Out of the wind
3 Streamlined swimmer
4 Costa del __
5 Latino grocery
6 Miner's quest
7 Bette Midler movie
8 Ukr. or Lith., once
9 God of Islam
10 West Indian fleshy shrub
11 Sikkim's continent
12 E-mail
13 Tense
18 Earlier
22 San __, CA
23 Kellogg's Michigan home
25 Half-fish creatures
26 Inflict a heavy blow
27 Of musical sounds
28 Stop for a camel
30 Eyeball covering
32 Also known as
33 Caught some Zs
34 Jack of Hearts products
36 Liquid taste
38 Feathery scarf
40 Permanent prisoner
43 Apollo spacecraft
47 Sistine, for one
50 Cigar or Citation
52 Down Under bird
53 Wire measures
54 Laptop image
55 Latvian capital
57 Rocker Billy
58 In a sluggish way
59 Actor Thicke
60 Actress Campbell
62 Animal gullet
63 Hair fashions

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

P	A	R	I	S	■	B	A	B	E	■	T	A	F	T
O	M	A	N	I	■	E	R	I	K	■	I	S	L	E
S	P	I	N	N	I	N	G	J	E	N	N	I	E	S
E	L	L	■	K	A	Z	O	O	■	A	S	S	E	T
S	Y	S	T	E	M	■	S	U	R	G	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	R	B	S	■	■	O	G	L	A	L	A
A	P	E	D	■	■	K	N	U	T	E	■	I	O	U
R	E	V	O	L	V	I	N	G	C	R	E	D	I	T
A	R	E	■	E	A	S	E	L	■	■	P	E	S	O
B	U	R	S	T	S	■	■	Y	E	T	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	H	E	M	E	■	T	I	C	K	L	E
S	A	M	O	A	■	A	D	O	R	E	■	N	U	T
W	H	I	R	L	I	N	G	D	E	R	V	I	S	H
A	O	N	E	■	R	O	A	D	■	C	A	S	T	E
B	Y	E	S	■	E	R	R	S	■	E	T	H	Y	L

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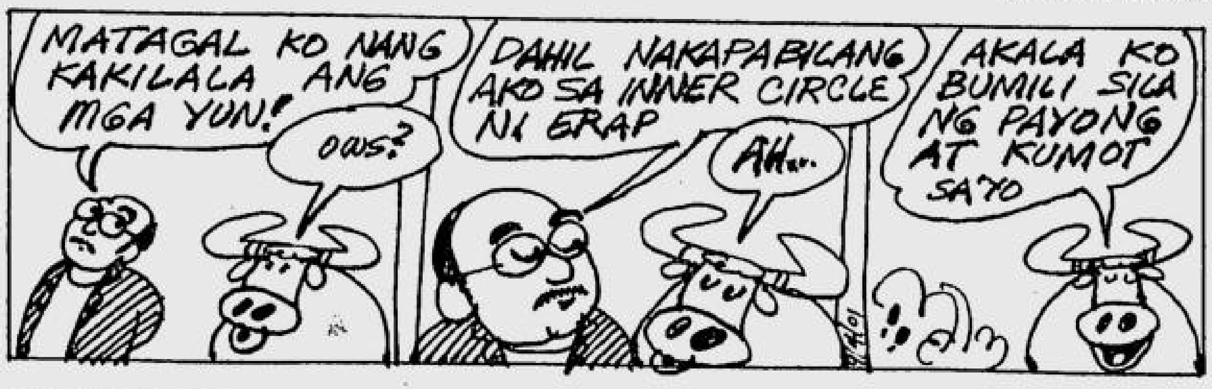
7/20/01

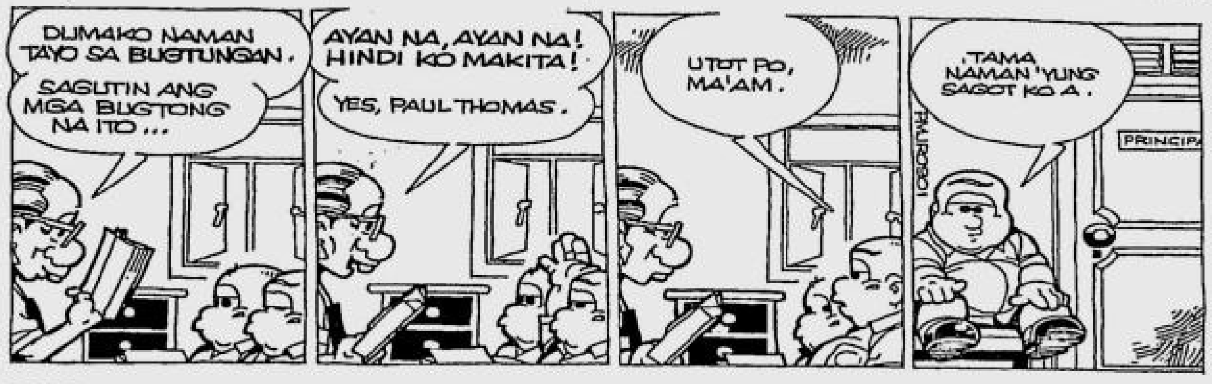
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MATAGAL KO NANG KAKILALA ANG MGA YUN!
OWS?
DAHIL NAKAPABILANG AKO SA INNER CIRCLE NI ERAP
AH...
AKALA KO BUMILI SILA NG PAYONG AT KUMOT SA'YO

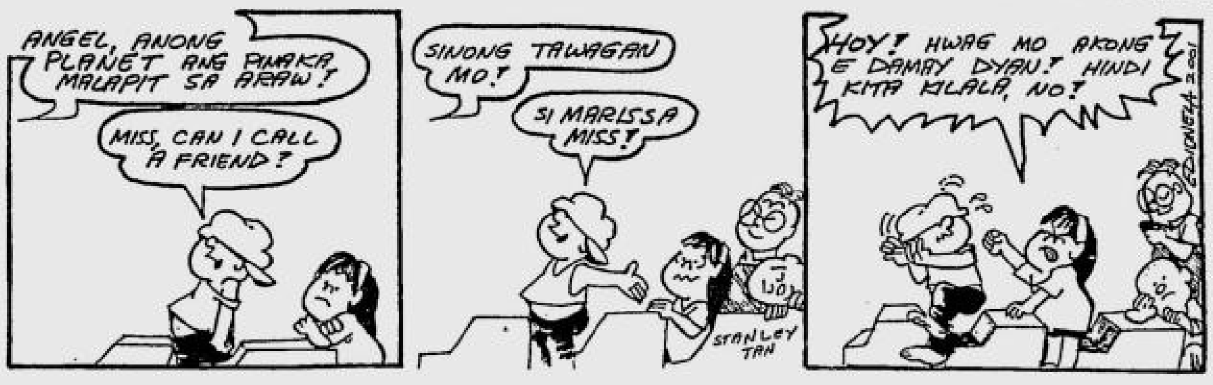
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


DUMAKO NAMAN TAYO SA BUGTUNGAN.
SAGUTIN ANG MGA BUGTONG NA ITO...
AYAN NA, AYAN NA! HINDI KO MAKITA!
YES, PAUL THOMAS.
UTOT PO, MA'AM.
TAMA NAMAN 'YUNG SAGOT KO A.
PRINCIPA

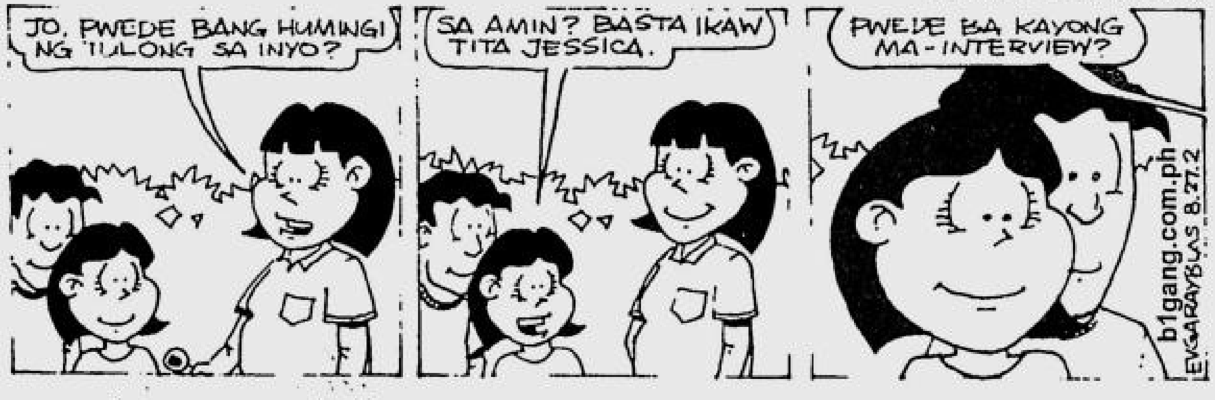
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, ANONG PLANET ANG PINAKA MALAPIT SA ARAW?
MISS, CAN I CALL A FRIEND?
SINONG TAWAGAN MO?
SI MARISSA MISS!
HOY! HWAG MO AKONG E DAMAY DYAN! HINDI KITA KILALA, NO!
STANLEY TAN
DIONELA 2001

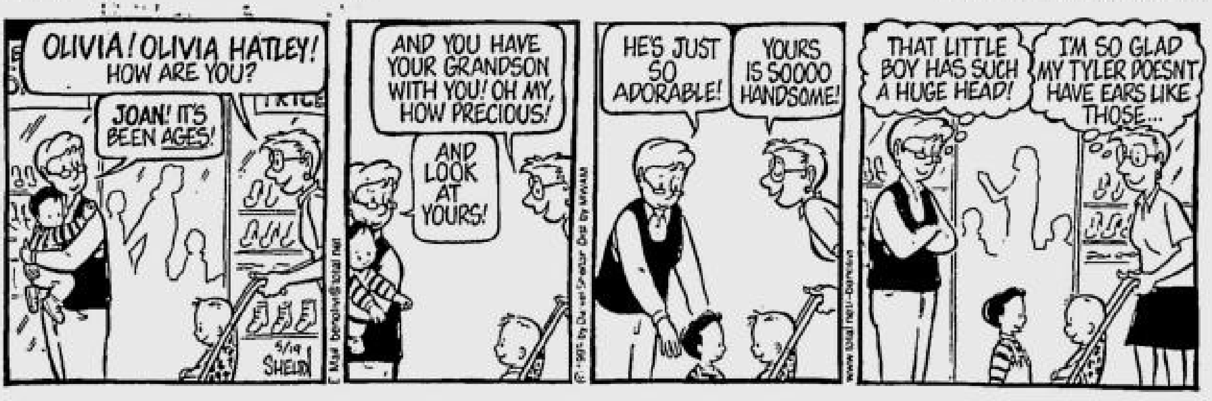
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


JO, PWEDE BANG HUMINGI NG TULONG SA INYO?
SA AMIN? BASTA IKAW TITA JESSICA.
PWEDE BA KAYONG MA-INTERVIEW?
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBUAS 8.27.2

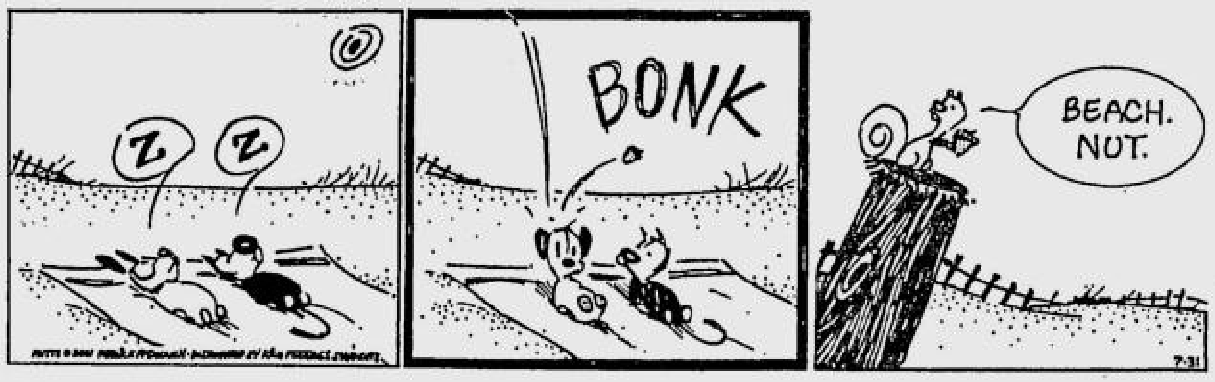
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


OLIVIA! OLIVIA HATLEY! HOW ARE YOU?
JOAN! IT'S BEEN AGES!
AND YOU HAVE YOUR GRANDSON WITH YOU! OH MY, HOW PRECIOUS!
AND LOOK AT YOURS!
HE'S JUST SO ADORABLE!
YOURS IS SOOOO HANDSOME!
THAT LITTLE BOY HAS SUCH A HUGE HEAD!
I'M SO GLAD MY TYLER DOESN'T HAVE EARS LIKE THOSE...
5/14
SHELTON

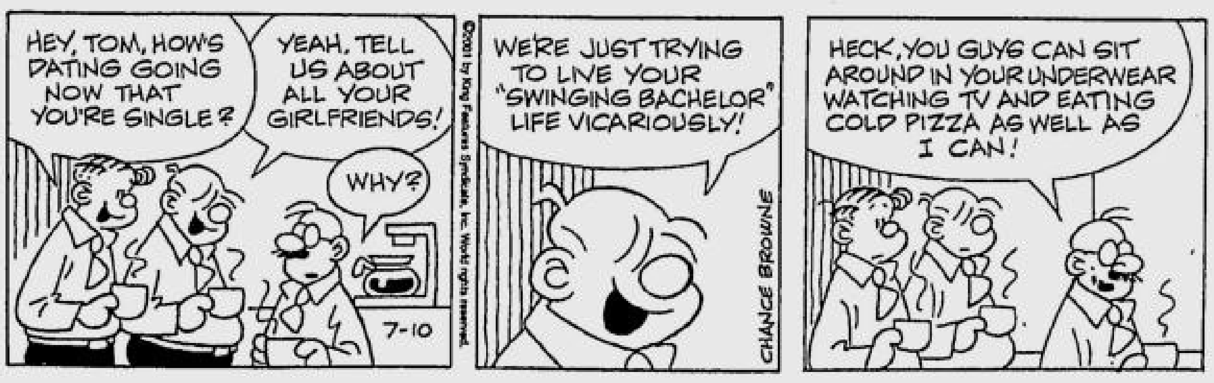
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


Z
Z
BONK
BEACH. NUT.
7-31

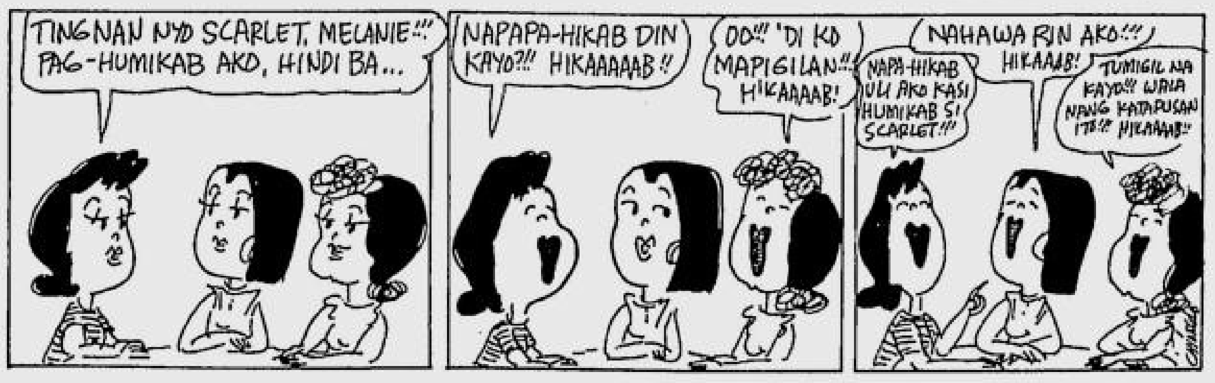
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


HEY, TOM, HOW'S DATING GOING NOW THAT YOU'RE SINGLE?
YEAH, TELL US ABOUT ALL YOUR GIRLFRIENDS!
WHY?
WE'RE JUST TRYING TO LIVE YOUR "SWINGING BACHELOR" LIFE VICARIOUSLY!
HECK, YOU GUYS CAN SIT AROUND IN YOUR UNDERWEAR WATCHING TV AND EATING COLD PIZZA AS WELL AS I CAN!
7-10
CHANCE BROWNE

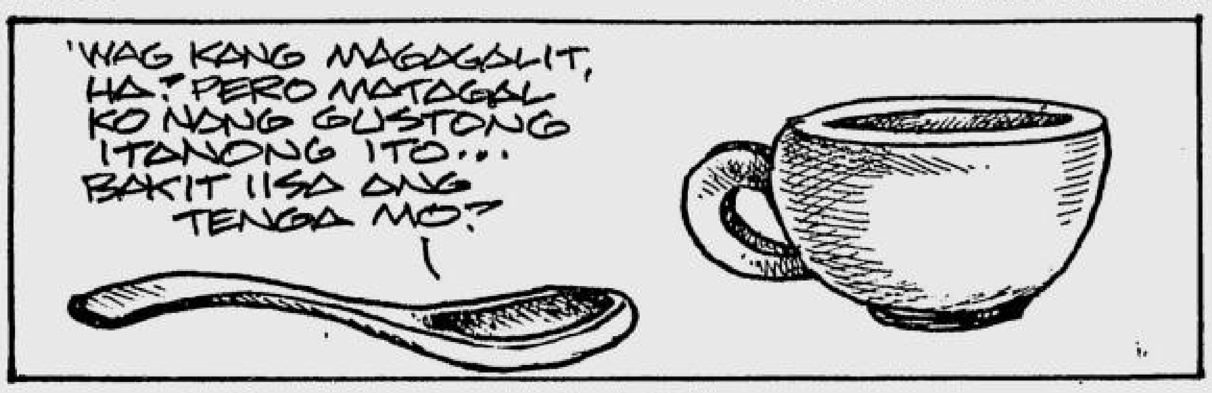
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TINGNAN NYO SCARLET, MELANIE!!! PAG-HUMIKAB AKO, HINDI BA...
NAPAPA-HIKAB DIN KAYO?!! HIKAAAAAB!!
OO!!! 'DI KO MAPIGILAN!! HIKAAAAB!
NAHAWA RIN AKO!!! HIKAAAB!
NAPA-HIKAB ULI AKO KASI HUMIKAB SI SCARLET!!!
TUMIGIL NA KAYO!!! WALA NANG KATAPUSAN ITO!!! HIKAAAAB!!

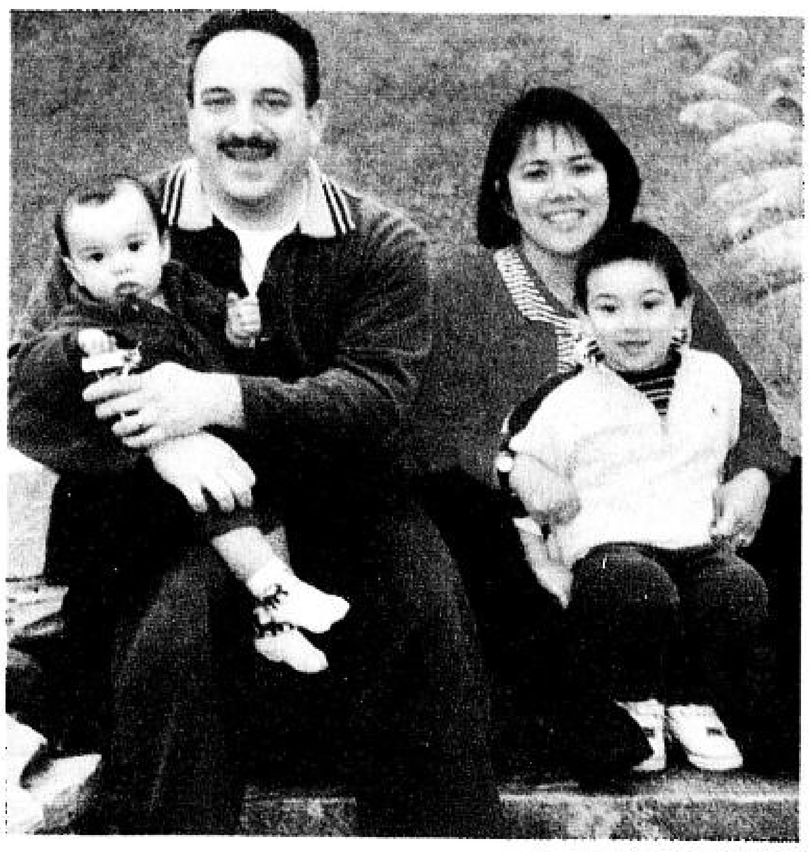
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


'WAG KANG MAGAGALIT, HA? PERO MATAGAL KO NANG GUSTONG ITANONG ITO... BAKIT IISA ANG TENGA MO?

A laboring mother's dream companion

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA


DOULA. Cris Nicandro-Rosenthal with husband Dave and sons Nathan and Michael

MEMBERS of the Best Friends in Breastfeeding support group with Bradley method childbirth educator Chiqui Brosas-Hahn (extreme right)

MARICRIS Nicandro Rosenthal is every laboring woman's dream companion. She provides emotional, physical and sometimes even spiritual support when necessary. Cris is a birth doula, a supportive companion (other than a friend or a loved one) who is professionally trained to provide support, but not clinical task, to women who are about to give birth.

Cris arrived in the Philippines after a 15-year stay in Massachusetts where she finished her master's degree in business management. She then married Dave Rosenthal, an IT specialist with whom she has two sons, Michael and Nathan. "I came home primarily to be with my widowed Mom who is 78 years old," Cris says.

She admits that the practice of hiring doulas to assist in childbirth is unheard of in the Philippines. "In the United States, it's very common. The more support the mother has, the better," she relates.

Cris personally experienced how it was to have a doula, in addition to all the medical personnel who attend to you once you're inside the delivery room. "Her work inspired me to become a doula," she says. "A doula coaches a pregnant woman during the course of her labor and delivery and at the same time, husbands who want to play an active role. In a way, a doula eases the pressure for most men.

"I strongly believe a husband should be the primary labor support and I can be there to coach the husband or partner while he supports you. If the partner is unable to be there, then I will be your primary support, if the mother so desires. If the doctor allows both of us to be there, I coach the partner and the mother directly," Cris emphasizes.

Difficulty

Cris admits there might be difficulty in explaining the doula concept to some doctors and many hospitals that still do not allow a companion inside the delivery room. "There are some progressive hospitals and I have met many doctors who are open to the idea. My experience here is that of accompanying the mothers from the home and the whole time that they are in the labor room. The delivery room is another story," she explains.

When asked if the medical personnel views her presence as a nuisance or a threat, she quickly stresses that doulas specialize in nonmedical skills and do not perform clinical tasks such as vaginal exams or fetal heart rate monitoring. "We do not diagnose medical conditions or give medical advice. I do not make decisions for my clients. All I do is provide information, emotional and physical support all throughout the labor," Cris emphasizes.

Training to become a doula is no easy task. The Doulas of North America (Dona), which is based in the United States, is the sole body that gives certification.

The Dona charter states that a doula "provides physical, emotional and informational support to women and their partners during labor and birth, help and advice on comfort measures such as breathing, relaxation, massage and positioning; assistance to families in gathering information about the course of their labor and their options; continuous emotional reassurance and comfort; nonmedical skills such as massage and other nonpharmacological pain relief measures; assistance to partners who want to play an active support role help so the woman has a safe and satisfying childbirth as the woman defines it."

Doula training focuses on the emotional needs of women in labor and nonmedical physical and emotional comfort measures. Generally, training programs require some prior knowledge of childbirth and consist of an intensive two- or three-day seminar, including hands-on practice of such skills as relaxation, breathing, positioning and movements to reduce pain and enhance labor progress, massage and other comfort measures.

Provider of emotional comfort

Cris received her certification in Boston where she had to read "a ton of materials," attend childbirth classes as a participant and observer, a three-day training in techniques and skills and three births as an observer, and hurdle a final interview before finally getting her certification.

"I offer help and advice on comfort measures like breathing, relaxation, movement and positioning. Doctors and nurses provide the mother with knowledge while I provide the continuous emotional reassurance and comfort," Cris explains her role. "When a doula is present, some women feel a lesser need for pain medications, or postpone them until they're in labor. Sometimes though, they also choose pain relief and that's fine. I do not discourage, I just give the mother various options and tell her about the risks and benefits, but the decision is hers."

Cris adds that the presence of a doula decreases the pressure on the father, who can participate at his own comfort level. "Fathers often feel relieved when they can rely on a doula for help and they enjoy the birth experience more." However, Cris also tells of fathers who like to play an active support role and in those cases, she assists and guides both mother and partner.

> The presence of a doula is like having one's husband and best friend to support you during the most important moment in a woman's life

In addition to being a doula, Cris is also part of a group called Best Friends for Breastfeeding, a monthly support group that advocates breast feeding. "Much like La Leche league in other countries," Cris explains. The group meets every second Wednesday of the month at St. Luke's Medical Center. Thus, the care and service Cris provides goes beyond the delivery room.

"I normally meet with the parents starting on the seventh month. You need to build a relationship with the client. You can't just show up at labor and expect an instant rapport with the mother," Cris says.

During meetings, expectations, fears and knowledge of the birth process are discussed—much like getting-to-know-you sessions. A doula's fees are based on the length of labor: For every 12 hours of labor, which includes three meetings with the parents.

"It's also important to make your doctor aware that you would like to have a doula with you and explain to him/her that the doula is not there to compete or interfere in the process. It's more like having your husband and your best friend [who knows all the relaxation and breathing techniques] to support you on that very important moment in your life."

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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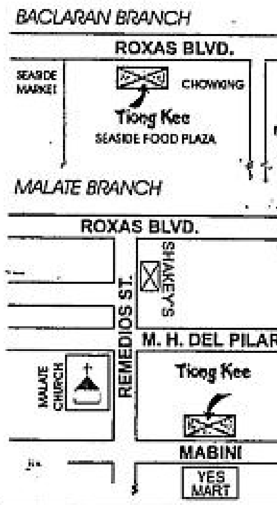

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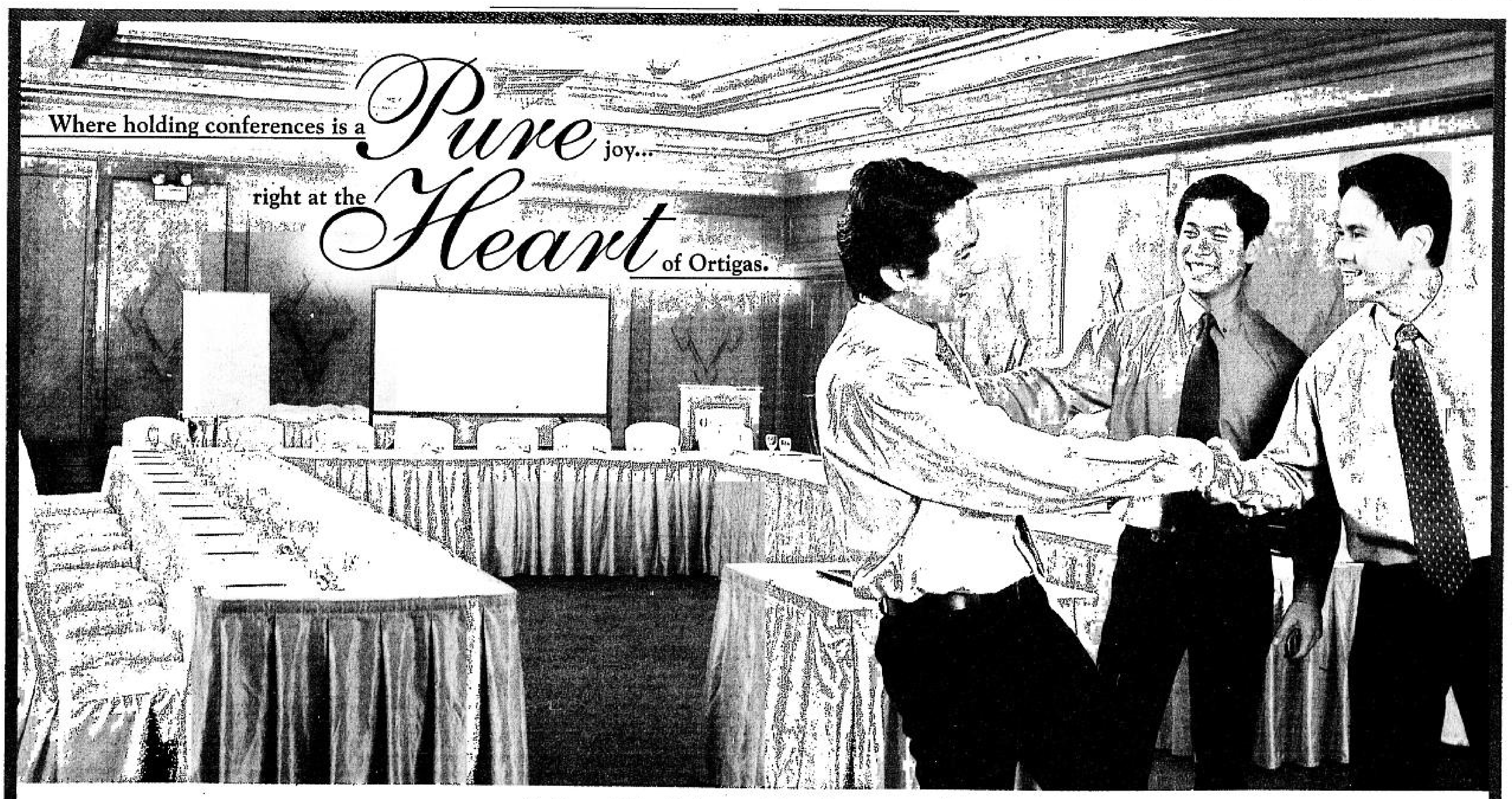
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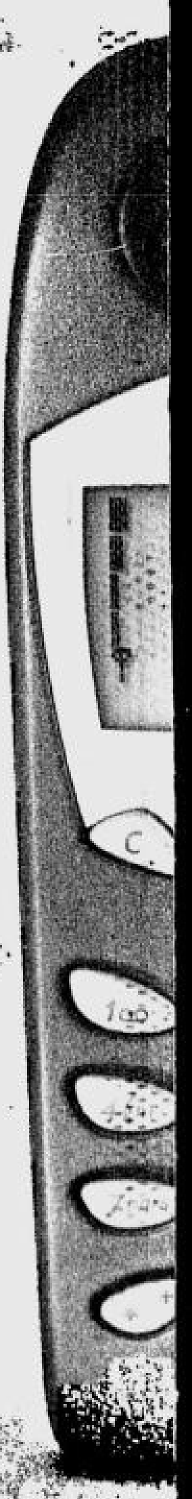

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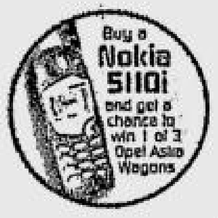

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6. Deadline for submission of entries is every 18th of the month: Sept. 18, 2001; Oct. 18, 2001; Nov. 18, 2001.
7. A participant can only win once. Once a winner has been drawn, a Globe Telecom representative shall make a call to the Globe Handyphone number indicated on the raffle stub to notify that he/she has won. The subscriber shall be required to give his/her name and address and will be informed of the requirements when claiming. The winning subscriber shall also be notified by registered mail.
8. When claiming, proceed to Globe Telecom Marketing Department, 4/F GT Plaza, Pioneer St., Mandaluyong City and present the following:
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   b. Official receipt, valid ID with picture and registered mail.
9. If the winner is a minor, he/she must be accompanied by his/her parents/guardian when claiming the prize and both the minor and his/her parents/guardian should present a valid identification. The latter should also bring proof that he/she is the parent/guardian of the minor.
10. A free round trip ticket for two (2) to Singapore with free
will be given to the Globe Telecom Business Center, a
winning entry. Travel documents and taxes pertaining to
is valid for 6 months from date of redemption.
11. The 20% prize tax shall be borne by Globe Telecom
registration of the vehicle awarded as prize shall be bor
12. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from receip
(60) day period from notification, the prize shall be for
All prizes are not convertible to cash.
13. Employees of Globe Telecom, Harrison Communicatio
and participating outlets, including their relatives up to the
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e by the winner.
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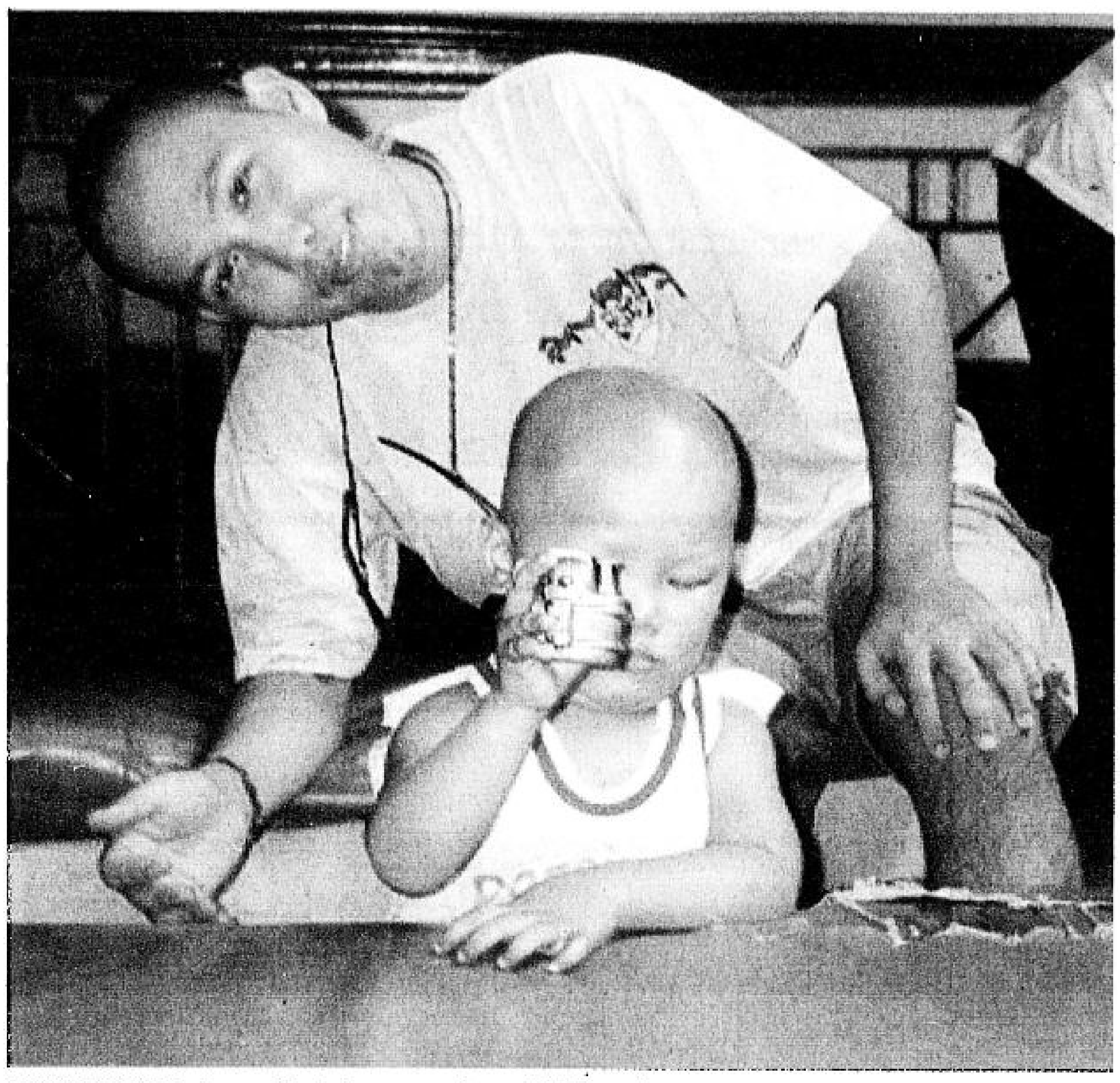
Young cancer warriors

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA

MARK Denver Abad, 3, has lost both his eyes and is halfway through his fight with retinoblastoma—cancer of the eye. He undergoes treatment every day at Medical City and in 10 more sessions he will, hopefully, be healed of the cancer that has robbed him of his sight. The 10 sessions will cost his parents another P2,100, granting that Mark breezes through the treatment without any infections.



SURVIVORS ALL. James Auste hovers over brave little Russel.

MARK Denver hopes to go to school and be able to read someday.

JAMES and the beneficiaries of Cancer Warriors

Russel, on the other hand, is a brave 3-year-old boy with no eyebrows and one eye remaining. "*Kuya, tignan mo, ang init ng ulo ko,*" he says, pointing to a head with nary a trace of hair. Russel has just undergone his last chemotherapy session and will have his cobalt treatment any day now. His father is a factory worker in Cavite. It's his mother and grandmother who take him to the hospital each time he needs treatment. His family already owes friends and relatives a total of P9,000. "Never mind, so long as Russel continues to survive," they say.

Mark and Russel are only two of the 12 children that The Cancer Warriors Foundation continues to help through its various projects. James Auste, founder of Cancer Warriors and himself a survivor of brain cancer, has devoted the rest of his life to a dream: That no Filipino child should experience a diminished quality of life because of cancer.

"Cancer can be beaten," James says with conviction, "If detected early, given proper management and care, God will make a way." Of course, one should have unwavering faith.

Together with a passionate group of young volunteers, James organized the Cancer Warriors Foundation Inc., which is committed to the fight against cancer. Among the foundation's goals are to facilitate increased awareness and understanding of childhood cancers, with emphasis on education, early detection, proper management and care; initiate programs and activities that will inspire cancer patients, survivors and their families; generate support and pro-active involvement of various sectors in information/education/communication and advocacy, especially in the area of childhood cancer.

Concerned friends

Committed to the fight against cancer, a foundation organizes a fund-raising concert for poor kids with retinoblastoma

Dr. Aiee Antonio, a third-year opthalmology resident at the Philippine General Hospital, comes face to face daily with the growing number of children who suffer from retinoblastoma. The disease, Dr. Antonio says, is the most common primary malignant, intraocular tumor of childhood and the second most common of all age groups.

In the United States, it occurs in one out of 20,000 live births. The average age at diagnosis is 18 months, but majority of the cases become evident before the age of 3 years.

"Parents with familial retinoblastoma have a 50 percent of transmitting the disease to their children." Thus, cases at the PGH where two or three family members have RB are not unusual. "We have a family here where four out of nine have RB, a mother and three of her children. It's really sad," Dr. Antonio says.

Treatment for retinoblastoma is a three-step process. It usually begins with an operation, followed by a series of chemotherapy sessions (average cost is P6,000-P8,000/session, and a patient has to undergo four to six sessions) and 26 sessions of cobalt treatment that costs P210/session.

James and Dr. Antonio have forged a partnership and together with other concerned friends came up with the idea for "Cancert: Kantahan para sa Kabataang may Kanser," a fund-raising concert which aims to entertain, and raise cancer-consciousness as well as funds for children with retinoblastoma or other types of cancer who are in dire need of financial assistance to complete their treatment.

Various chorale groups from different schools together with the Bukas Palad will perform on Sept. 9 at the AFP Theater. Tickets are priced at P250 each. "Some people have asked, 'Why P250 for a concert where there are no 'name' singers?' " James begins.

"One cobalt session at the Medical City is P210. With each cobalt session, a child's chances for survival are increased. If a child with Retinoblastoma completes 26 sessions, he'll have a 90 percent survival rate," James emphasizes.

"Two hundred-fifty pesos is also equivalent to five Purinatol tablets which a child with cancer consumes everyday while s/he is not undergoing chemo," Antonio explains, "This increases the child's resistance against infection. That's like adding five days to a child's life," Antonio says.

So skip that trip to the movies next weekend or a night out with your friends. Go to "Cancert" instead and help save a child's life.

For ticket information, call James Auste at 551-4588; 551-1650 or Dr. Aiee Antonio at 521-8450 local 3066.

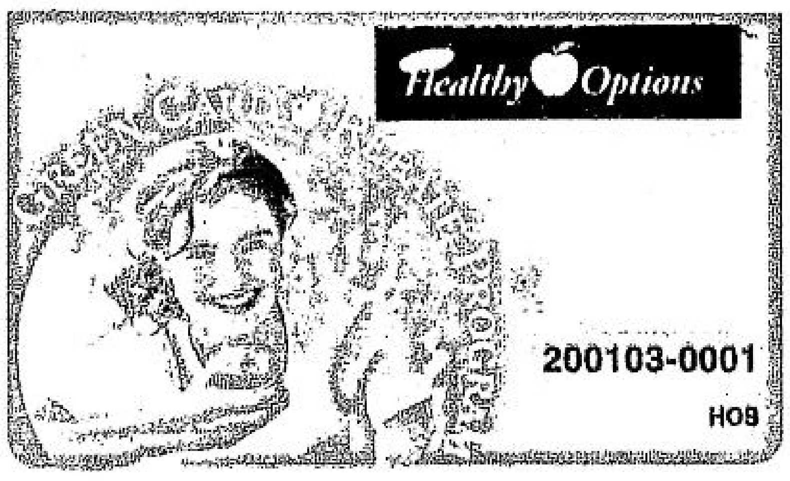
E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

Exclusive privileges for health card holders

THERE are now countless ways to recharge your energies, boost your health and outsmart illness through the quality products at Healthy Options with the swipe of a card.

With the Healthy Options Green Card Loyalty Program, members get to avail of rebates on special merchandise offers all-year round, plus complimentary copies of the Healthy Options News Digest, while accumulating points toward the Gold Card to gain even more benefits. The rebate scheme entitles customers to a P50 Loyalty Certificate for every P1,000 single-receipt purchase.

The Gold Card Loyalty Program entitles members to a P250 Loyalty Certificate for every P5,000 single-receipt purchase.



THE HEALTHY Options Green Card, which is now being honored at Healthy Options outlets all over the metropolis, entitles cardholders to rebates and other benefits while accumulating points with every purchase or investment in healthy products.

Other exclusive benefits for the Gold Cardholder are rebates and additional discounts during his birthday month, depending on purchase amount. Gold Card members have the added options to place special orders for favored products and to apply for one supplementary Healthy Options Gold Card for an immediate family member.

The Green Card and Gold Card are ready to be honored. Visit any of the Healthy Options branches, each of which has a staff of specially trained personnel ready to answer inquiries. These are at the following: 1/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City; Rustan's Supermarket, Makati City; 2/L Festival Supermall, Filinvest, Alabang; G/L Ayala Center, Cebu City; LG/F SM City, North Edsa; 2/L SM City Manila; Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City; and at the newly opened branch at 2/L SM Megamall B, Edsa, Mandaluyong City.

How effective is chemotherapy in combating cancer?

IN AN OFFICIAL statement by Manila-based Green and Gold International Exports, the Philippines' exclusive distributor of the China No.1 Super Tian Xian Liquid and other anticancer herbal products, chemotherapy has repeatedly proven effective in various cancer cases worldwide.

The Manila group said that one of their latest cancer cases involving a Vietnamese patient has proven that chemotherapy played a vital role in improving her health condition.

Thao, 35, expressed support for the continuing worldwide fight against the disease and vowed to join thousands of other cured patients in supporting the anticancer campaign—after benefitting from the cancer treatment combined with the intake of China No. 1 Super Tian Xian Liquid, an anticancer Chinese herbal medicine.

According to Thao's relatives, UK-based Thuy and Robin Vaughan, the patient was earlier diagnosed with lung cancer and was given only a few months to live.

With their discovery of the herbal drug from the company website via www.cancerherbal.com, the patient acquired the anticancer remedy while undergoing chemotherapy treatment.

After undergoing two weeks of chemotherapy and simultaneous doses of the anticancer remedy, positive effects on her health were noted.

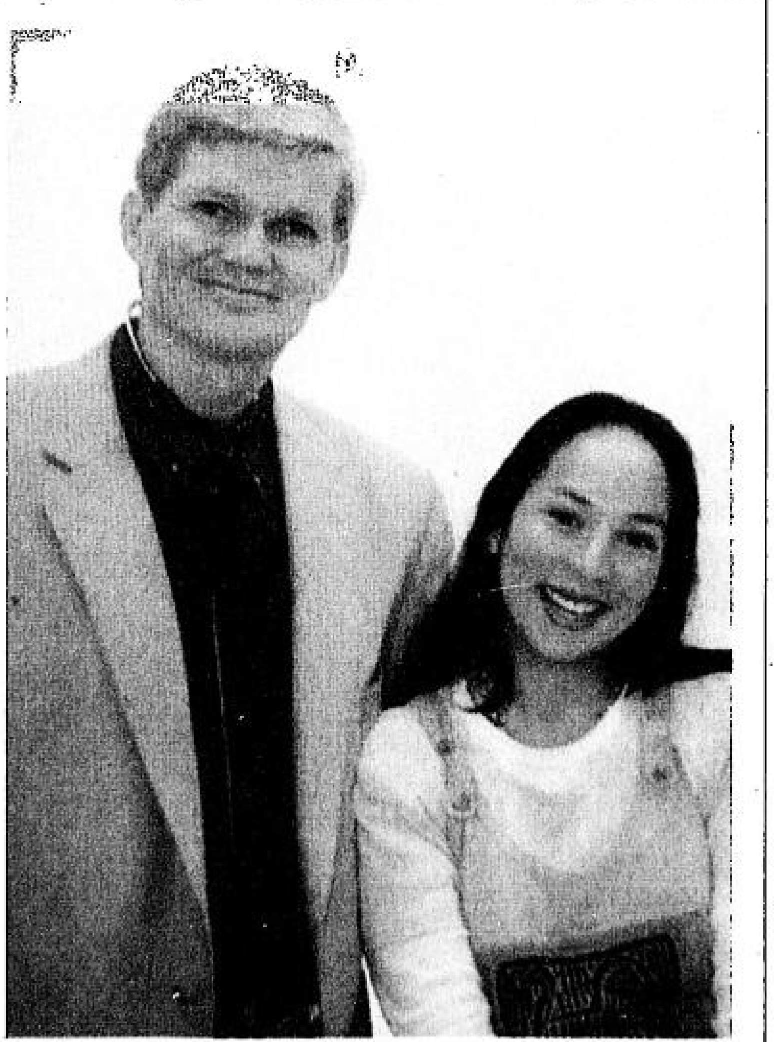
The Vaughan couple narrated that her health improved, her hair stopped falling and the tumor in her lungs was found to have shrunk by 75 percent.

They said the patient's doctors in England were amazed by the positive results of both Western and Chinese anticancer treatments, since her case was said to be very serious and at an advanced stage.

Meanwhile, the Vaughans informed the Manila-based group of bogus products claiming to be the New Tian Xian Liquid being sold in Ho Chi Minh City, trying to cash in on the name of the product at a cheaper price.

Green and Gold International Exports, located at 307 Solmac Building, 84 Dapitan St. corner Banawe St., QC, is the exclusive distributor of Tian Xian Liquid products as well as other anticancer herbal medicine.

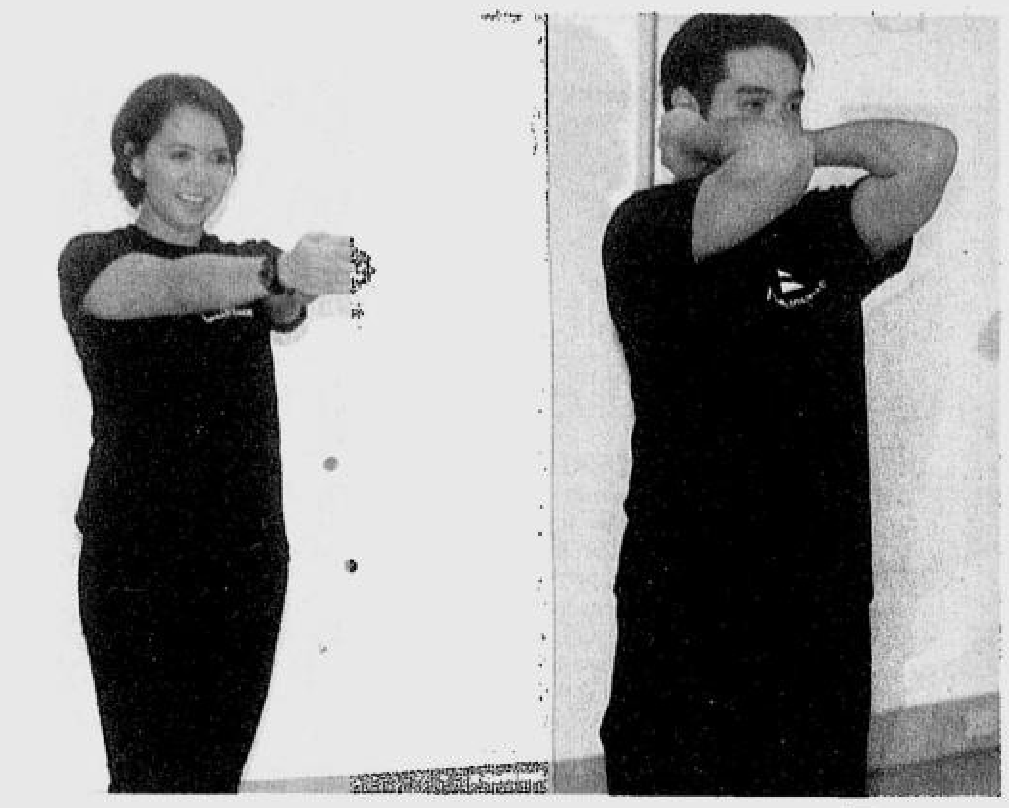
Call 415-871 and 781-9370.



Philippine Society of Medical Oncology convention

WELL-KNOWN gastrointestinal cancer expert Dr. George Fisher of Stanford University will be one of the guest speakers at the 15th annual convention of the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology on Sept. 6-8 at the Shangri-La Hotel Edsa. Photo shows Dr. Fisher with Rio Diaz Cojuangco, one of his patients. Local doctors are invited to attend the lectures which will feature other GI experts Drs. Eileen O'Reilly and Henry Yeung of the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of New York; Dr. Raymond Liang of Queen Mary Hospital of Hong Kong, and Dr. Christopher Willet of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Call Erlyn at 721-9326 or 723-0101 local 5318, or (0917) 646-2504.

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Chest stretch

ACTIVELY stretches the muscles of the chest as well as the front of the shoulders.

Equipment:
None

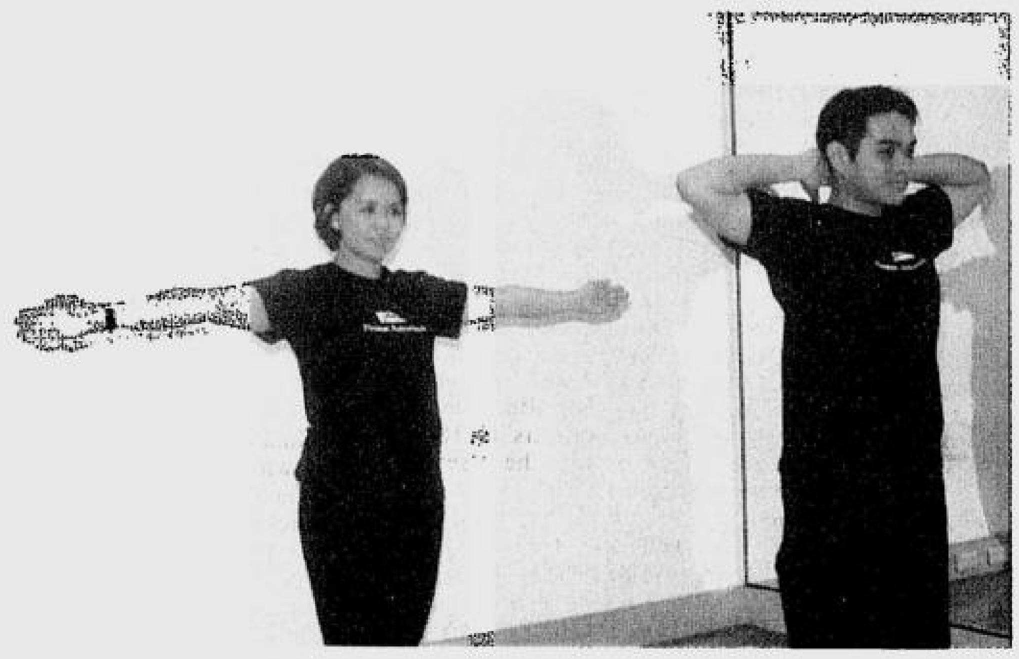
Exercise Technique:

1. Keep your arms in front of you at shoulder level and choose between the following positions: Arms straight with palms together or elbows bent and touching each other.

2. Bring your arms backward by actively squeezing the muscles between your shoulder blades.

3. Hold the contraction in your back muscles to actively maintain the stretch on your chest muscles.

4. Hold for 10 to 15 seconds. Repeat a few times if you have tight muscles or you have been doing a lot of desk work with a slouched posture.



A multifaceted woman

AT FIRST glance, Joanna Marie Valencia de Jesus looks like your typical undergraduate—bright-eyed, fresh-faced and self-assured. But spend a minute in her company and it becomes evident that Joanna is no college kid and the life she leads is definitely anything but typical.

Unlike other thirtysomething women, Joanna does not bat an eyelash when it comes to the subject of age. "I'm 33 years old," she nonchalantly declares and settles back for the inevitable cry of disbelief. And inevitable they really are. "People are amazed when I tell them how old I am," she says. "I get the same reaction again and again. They can't believe I'm 33. Some even thought I was still in college."

Ten years have passed since Joanna graduated with a degree in commerce from Assumption College. These days, she is putting her management skills to good use as the assistant vice president for finance of the RGV Group of Companies. "My father, former Oriental Mindoro governor Rodolfo G. Valencia, has been molding me and my brothers since we were young. So I knew I would definitely be working with him one day." Handling the company's coffers is a task she describes as "demanding," but one she immensely enjoys. "It's different when you work for a family corporation, but the perks make it even more enjoyable."

With an unpredictable working schedule, she takes care of a thriving enterprise's portfolio, keeping a close eye on all things financial. It is a full-time job that would leave most people at wit's end, but not Joanna. In fact, she was more than happy to sign up for more work—this time, as a student at the Philippine School of Interior Design. When asked why she decided to take on a second course, "I just wanted to learn more, especially about things that interest me the most." But the quest for knowledge proved to be a challenging undertaking. "It's quite difficult. My course demands a lot of my time," she explains. "Sometimes I sleep at 4 a.m. because of the demands of school work."

Trickiest part

But between her classes on interior design and her high-pressure job, she considers keeping her family happy the trickiest part of her juggling act. Yes, you read it right. Aside from being an AVP and a student, Joanna is also a loving wife and a doting mother of two. Her eyes visibly light up at the mention of her family. She met her husband, John Barry de Jesus, while she was still in her teens. "He gate-crashed our school fair," she recalls with a laugh.

Like their mother, Joanna's two daughters, Barbara, 14, and Beatriz, 13, are growing up to be heartbreakers. "Barbara has quite a number of guys who call her and Bea has her set of admirers, too," she says, a mixture of exasperation and pride evident in her voice. "When they go to the mall, I have to keep a close watch, otherwise boys follow them around."

However, the picture they make is not that of a mother chaperoning two reluctant daughters. With Joanna's youthful looks and easygoing ways, the three of them look more like sisters hanging out at the mall. And how does she like being mistaken for a teen? "I get a kick out of it," she grins. "People can't believe I look so young despite the fact that I'm 33. They think I have this certain secret that I keep."

Joanna's beauty regimen is no secret. It is also very simple. She never overindulges in anything. She doesn't drink or smoke. She claims shopping is her only vice. She also makes it a point to get a lot of sleep, go to the gym once a week, get a facial every few months and take Imedeen twice a day.

Since reading about Imedeen three years ago, she says it has become a vital part of her skin-care philosophy. "I wasn't born with perfect skin," she says. "I had acquired sunspots and tiny veins on my face. They're lighter now. Actually, they're almost gone if hardly visible."

As Joanna puts it, "Everyone notices I have better skin and because of that I feel more confident. Before, I had to apply foundation. Now, I just use paper powder, lipstick and mascara."

It takes a special type of person to be able to make time for her career, family, studies and, most of all, herself. "It's just a matter of time management and being able to identify one's priorities in life," she declares, "I don't overexert myself and as much as possible I do everything in sweet moderation."

And like the college student she is always mistaken for, Joanna is still brimming with big plans. When asked about what she sees herself doing in 10 years, she quickly responded, "I envision myself as the chief operating officer of a multimillion-peso real estate empire."

JOANNA Valencia de Jesus with her father, former Mindoro governor Rodolfo G. Valencia

The value of consulting a paranormal expert

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

SEVERAL years ago, I received a call from a former officemate of mine named Gabby, who was vice president for marketing of the company I worked for at the time.

"My wife and I are planning to buy a house and lot in [a first-class subdivision] south of Manila," he began. "But we want to have it checked for the presence of negative entities or spirits. Can you come over and take a look at it?"

I told Gabby that I don't normally do this, but will do it for him as a friend. I found out from him that the property was a very good buy because the owners were willing to sell at a very low price. I asked Gabby if the house had a reputation of being haunted. He said he did not know. His wife liked the house very much. It is located in a very good place and has a beautiful swimming pool. The owners were willing to give it for a cheap price because all the children were gone and the couple themselves were migrating to the United States for good.

Together with Gabby, I went to see the property. His wife did not join us. The owner toured us around the property. Afterward, I told Gabby I couldn't sense the presence of entities in the house. But there was some negative energy I could feel but it was not coming from the house. I went out and looked around the yard.

I sensed the negative energy to be coming from an adjoining house to the left of the property, if you were looking in front of it. That house, according to Gabby, had been abandoned and unoccupied for the last five years. He said it used to be owned by a drug dealer who was subsequently arrested by the police.

I told Gabby that the house and lot he was intending to buy was free of negative spirits but the adjoining house was full of them. This affects the vibrations of the property. I told him that unless the neighboring house can be cleansed or exorcised of the negative entities that were occupying it, it would not be advisable to buy the property. I said it was up to him.

A week later, Gabby sent me a basketful of fruits and said they have decided not to purchase the property, to the big heartache and disappointment of his wife.

Two weeks ago, I received another call from a woman whom we shall call Athena, after the Greek goddess of wisdom. She said she and her husband were planning to buy a house and lot just across their house. This property for sale had a questionable history. The wife of the first owner, according to Athena, died in the house. The next couple who owned it quarreled and eventually separated. The third owner suffered the same fate. "I don't want the same thing to happen to me and my husband, so I want to be sure that the house is clean of negative spirits before we buy it."

I asked if there's anything else she could tell me about the property and she mentioned that one afternoon, her husband was resting in their veranda overlooking the property. He fell asleep, then he suddenly woke up and saw a man standing right in front of him who suddenly disappeared.

I told her it could be something, but we had to be sure what kind of spirit was present before we could do anything.

More and more people are beginning to realize the value and necessity of consulting a paranormal expert before buying a piece of real estate or even just an antique object. They now know that any wrong decision on this can spell bad luck, sickness, emotional problems, financial ruin and, in some cases, even death once they transfer to the new property.

But not all strange happenings in a house are caused by spirits. Take the following case: About five years ago, a neighbor of mine asked me to visit his house because he came home one evening and inside his room, which was locked, he found the electric fan toppled down on the floor, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary broken and the telephone not in the original place he had left it. He asked if anybody had entered the room and his maids and his 7-year-old son said nobody had. There was no sign that the door or the lock had been tampered with. His son told him that he sometimes heard footsteps in the room when nobody was inside.

When I entered the room, I felt no presence of negative entities at all. I told my neighbor that maybe what happened was something natural. He was afraid to sleep in the room for fear that there might be bad spirits there. I told him I didn't think there was anything to be afraid of. I suggested to him to just observe the room. If there were any other strange manifestations, then he could call me. I never heard from my neighbor again after that and I don't know what happened.

Recently, however, during our village association meeting, which I happened to attend, that neighbor of ours was also there.

He approached me and said, "You were absolutely right about that incident in our house, which I consulted you about five years ago." I had forgotten all about it and he related to me the incident.

"I discovered it was one of our maids who did it. She crawled to our room from a small opening, which I didn't think anybody could fit into. She did not steal anything. She only wanted to use the phone, which I placed in our bedroom because she was always talking to her boyfriend. She messed up the place to make it look like a spirit or ghost did it. She even coached my 7-year-old son to tell a lie about hearing footsteps in the room. This maid of ours had been working for us for six years and was trusted by us. The other maid confessed to us when that maid returned to the province recently."

E-mail the author at jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

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Unless otherwise that personal or preferred doctor is an accredited MEDICard service provider, you cannot do so. Use of, or services received from non-accredited physicians or hospitals is only covered during **EMERGENCY CASES** and is subject to reimbursement based on MEDICard relative values and specified limits. For big corporate clients, MEDICard allows use of non-accredited professionals and hospitals only under the so-called Point-of-Service (POS) Benefit/Program. This is an "add-on" benefit to their corporate policy and allows members to seek services from non-accredited hospitals and professionals, even in non-emergency situations, but is also subject to reimbursement.

Meet your MEDICard Team

If you are in need of a surgeon in Medical City General Hospital, look for **Dr. David Y. Dy.** Dr. Dy has been a MEDICard accredited professional for more than 5 years now. After earning his Doctor of Medicine degree from UP, he pursued further studies and specialized in General Surgery where he received his training from the same institution, and later in Sydney, Australia subspecializing in Surgical Oncology. His diligence and devotion to his profession has earned him a Fellowship to the American College of Surgery and affiliation as member to the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Outside the hospital compound, Doc David turns into a golf enthusiast, a swimmer and a loving husband to Dr. Amy Dy, a Pediatric Oncologist, and father to their two children, Catherine and Christopher. For your consultations, visit Dr. David Dy at room 219 of the Medico Bldg., adjacent MCGH, from Mondays to Saturdays, 10 AM to 2 PM.

Dr. Margaret Locsin De Leon is MEDICard's Pediatrician based in Alabang Medical Clinic, Muntinlupa. Dr. De Leon has been a MEDICard service provider since 1997. She earned her degree in Medicine FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation Hospital and later pursued her residency at Makati Medical Center. "Doktora" spends most of her free time with her husband, Dr. Edwin De Leon, an Emergency Medicine Physician and their 3 children. Meet Doc Margaret in person, visit her for consultations at Alabang Medical Clinic, from Tuesdays to Thursdays, 2 to 4 PM.

Dr. Wilma Audrey A. Asistores is one of MEDICard's accredited dentists for four years now. The "Singing Dentist" is fondly called by her patients as Doc Audrey. She is a Dentistry graduate from CEU. She pursued further studies to specialize in Implant Dentistry from the Manila Dental Specialty and Training Center, and TMJ Dysfunction and Orthodontics from the TMJ Center in Greenhills. She also recently attended a 4-day Dental Convention (hands-on surgery) in New York. Doc Audrey is noted for her friendly, compassionate and loving composure to her patients and has been tagged "the dentist with a light touch". She spends her free time singing, cooking, working out and listening to live band shows. She is also active in socio-civic projects aimed in helping the less fortunate. For your dental care services, visit Dr. Asistores at the AA Dental Clinic, Suite 301, Fatima Bldg., Taft Ave. (fronting PGH) from Mondays to Fridays, 8 AM to 3 PM and from 10 AM to 4 PM during Saturdays.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com.

For individual or family membership inquiries, please call 818-2161 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. For group or corporate membership, please call 817-5136, 817-4985 or 817-5127 and look for a membership consultant.

TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

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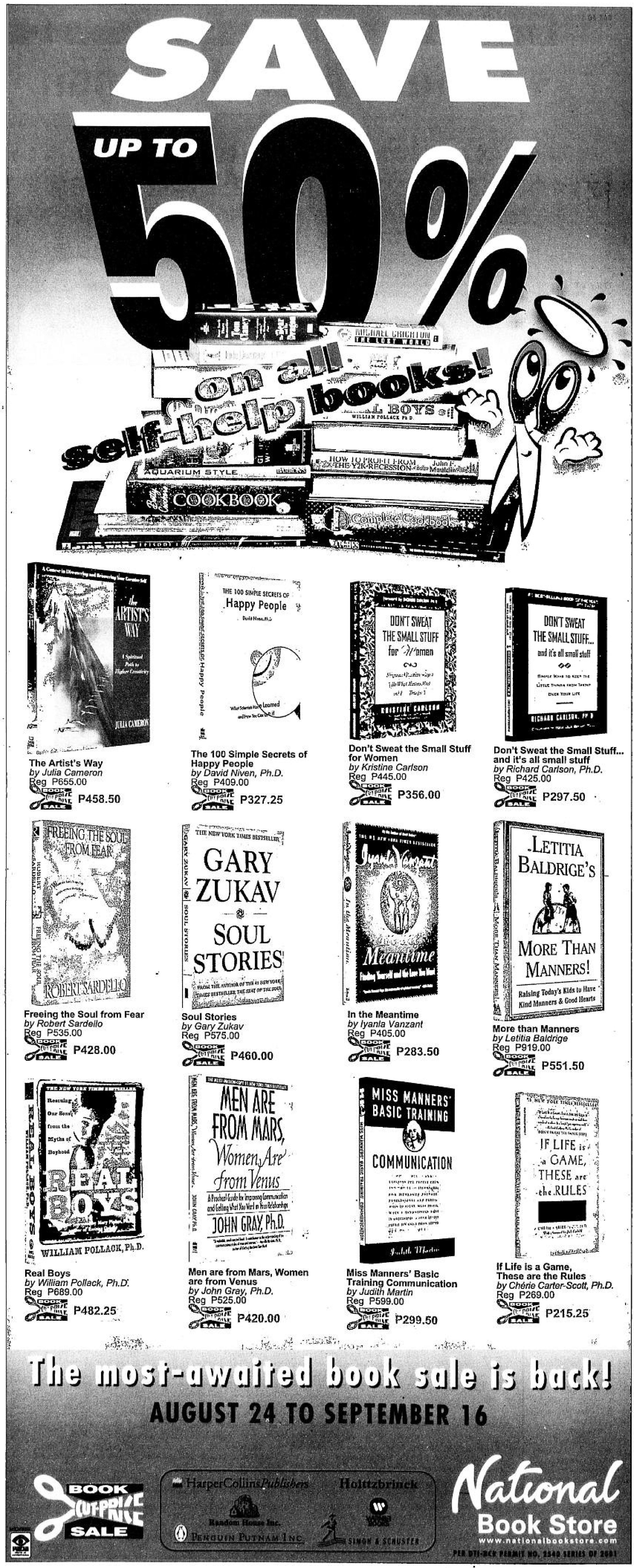
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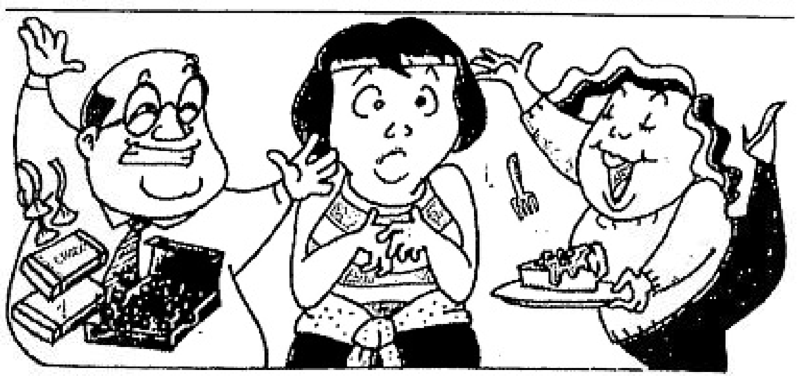

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Don't fall victim to diet and exercise sabotage

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

IN AN IDEAL world, family and friends would all be jumping for joy the day you finally get in shape. After all, who wouldn't be happy to see you get fit and lose excess pounds? Unfortunately, not everyone is always delighted to see your new figure. Even people close to you may not realize that the new you is making them uncomfortable. That's why you can fall victim to diet and exercise sabotage more often than you think from people that you least expect it from. Sabotage comes in two main forms: Unintentional and unconscious or intentional and well planned.

The unintentional type occurs when you stir up feelings of insecurity in the other person. The intentional type is from someone you should probably stop calling a friend.

Spouses and significant others

Married or steady couples eventually develop similar lifestyle. This includes similar eating and exercise habits. So if both partners have turned into couch potatoes over the years and one partner suddenly becomes active and gets in shape, the lazy partner may feel resentful because he or she does not want to change the lifestyle they are used to and yet feels the pressure to do so. Sometimes the out-of-shape partner becomes insecure and thinks that the fit partner will now be more attractive to the opposite sex.

The affected partner may or may not be aware of these feelings but they will sabotage you by complaining about the time spent exercising, by tempting you with "fattening" food, and by scheduling other activities during your exercise time.

I have a female client who is showered with gifts or chocolate (her weakness) by her husband every time she loses a little weight. I think her husband feels threatened when he sees her starting to look good.

I have had male clients who had to stop exercising in the gym though they are doing it for health reasons, like normalizing their high blood pressure, because their wives complain about the time they spend working out.

If this is happening to you, you need to gently but firmly tell your partner how much exercising means to you, because it gives you more energy and makes you feel good. Invite them to exercise with you so you can spend time "bonding" with each other. Tell them how concerned you are for their health. However, don't accuse them of trying to sabotage your fitness efforts. They are probably not even aware that they are doing it, and this will only start an unnecessary argument.

Friends

Human nature being what it is, we tend to collect friends who have similar interests and backgrounds. So if you are sedentary, out of shape and overweight, your friends probably are, too. As long as everyone looks and acts the same, things go on smoothly. But when someone in the *barkada* decides to change their lifestyle and jump on the fitness bandwagon, a few things start to happen. The best scenario is that your friends will be inspired by your desire to get fit and want to get in shape themselves. Unfortunately, the opposite may happen and the sabotaging attempts will start.

"What? You aren't going to have any dessert? Come on, try even a small piece." "Let's go to the movies. You can always exercise another time." "Your exercise is not working because you still look fat."

Acknowledge, without being judgmental, the feelings that your friends are experiencing. Don't take it personally. They are just feeling insecure about their own bodies. They have probably made many excuses to themselves about why they can't get fit (no discipline, no time, no one to accompany them). You are forcing them to realize that it is possible to shape up and they can no longer use those old excuses on themselves.

Dealing with diet and exercise sabotage from friends is similar to dealing with a spouse or significant other. Encourage them to join you by mentioning how much fun it will be to get fit all together. Point out that you can be each other's support system and you will all have an easier time staying in shape. Make sure, however, that you don't turn into an overzealous fitness advocate because no one likes to be preached to.

Parents

Parents can sabotage their children even while the kids are still young. Allowing your kids free rein with sweets and snacks means that they will develop a taste for these kinds of food that will haunt them in their adulthood.

I know of several parents who purposely keep their young daughters overweight so they won't be attractive to boys. One parent told me that he will stop doing this if his daughter is already in her early 20s and she would be "mature" enough to make the right choices for a boyfriend. He's totally convinced that his daughter would be able to shed all that excess weight in a jiffy. I hope he is right for the sake of his daughter, but I know it is not likely to happen, and she would probably struggle with a weight problem for most of her adult life.

> Sabotage comes in two forms: Unintentional and intentional. The unintentional type happens when you stir up feelings of insecurity in the other person. The intentional type is from someone you should stop calling a friend

Mothers who cook well can be unknowing saboteurs because they are offended when you don't eat their fattening culinary creations. I have a client who has no problem controlling her eating habits during the week but quickly crumbles in the face of maternal pressure during her family's Sunday get-togethers. She says it is doubly hard to say no to all the yummy goodies her mom cooks because they are comfort foods that remind her of her childhood, plus her mother is really an excellent cook. If she even tries to suggest a less fattening way to cook them or less fattening alternatives, her mother is deeply hurt because she feels her skills as a cook are being challenged.

This is what I told this client to do: Use the "health" approach. Keep mentioning that you are just dying to eat more of her cooking but your doctor has said that you have to watch your cholesterol, sugar, blood pressure. Tell your mom that, because she is such a great cook, she is the only one who can alter a recipe to make it healthier without changing the taste.

The other type of saboteur parent is the one who is constantly nagging you to lose weight. This is reverse psychology at its worst. On the surface, your father or mother has your best interests at heart and really wants to see you get fitter and slimmer. However, their nagging can have the exact opposite effect because it can bring out the rebel in you. Many overweight teenagers only lose weight when they leave home to go to college because they are no longer tempted to do the opposite (overeat) by the nagging comments of their parents.

The important thing to remember about diet and exercise sabotage from parents is that it comes from a loving heart that only wants the best for you (the motives of a friend or significant other can sometimes be doubtful) but doesn't know that it's doing any damage. Recognize that the nagging is their way of showing their concern for you.

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